This timeless action classic continues. It's been years since Hero lost his son and servant—Sheng Nu—to the abyss near the No Shadow School. But unbeknownst to Hero, they have survived, but not without much trepidation and repeated peril. The seemingly villainous HELL'S GATE will stop at nothing to grant the dying wish of their deceased leader—To make Hero's young son the new clan leader.

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JUNK

—RECORD OF THE LAST HERO—

麻宮騎亜

KIA ASAMIYA PRESENTS

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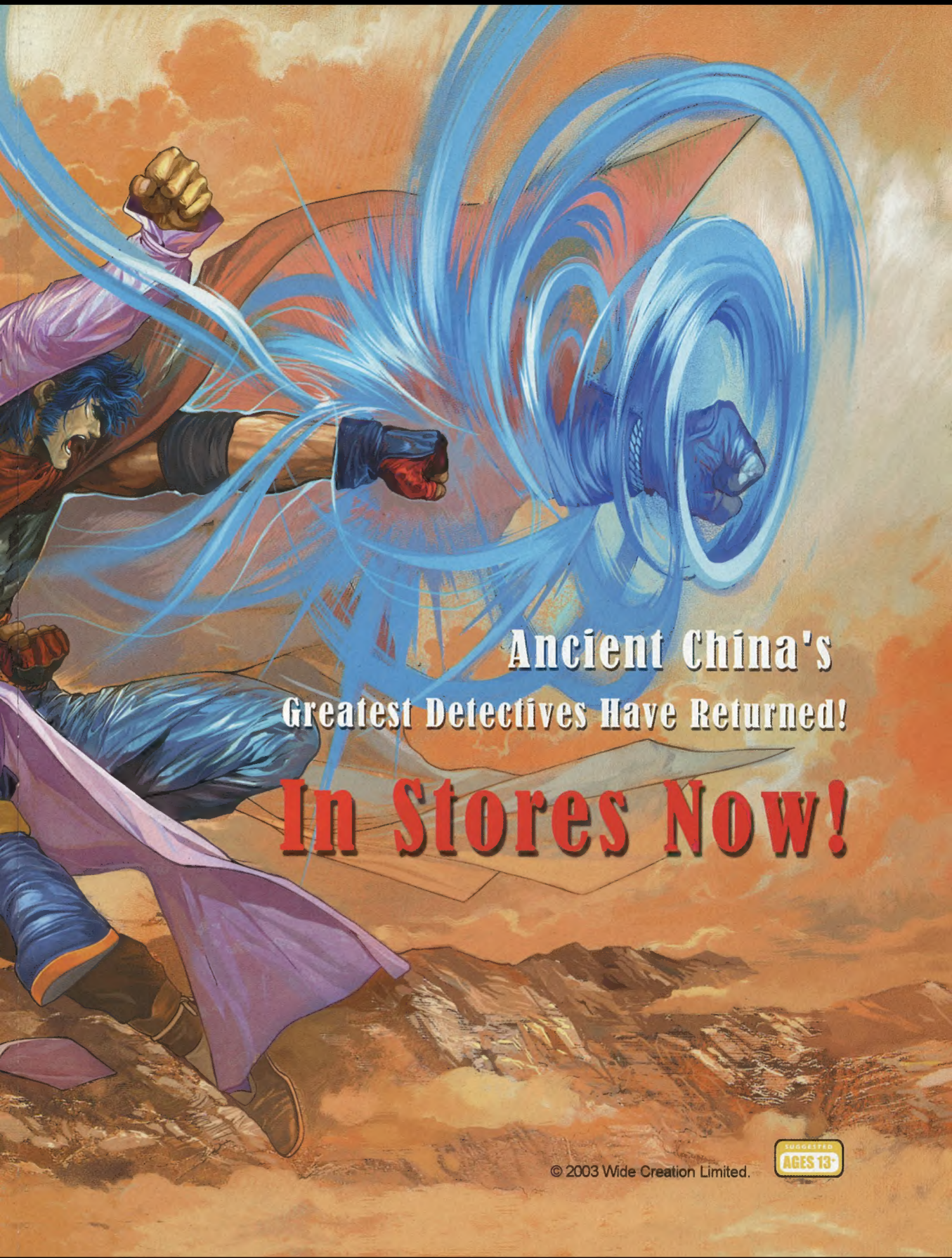
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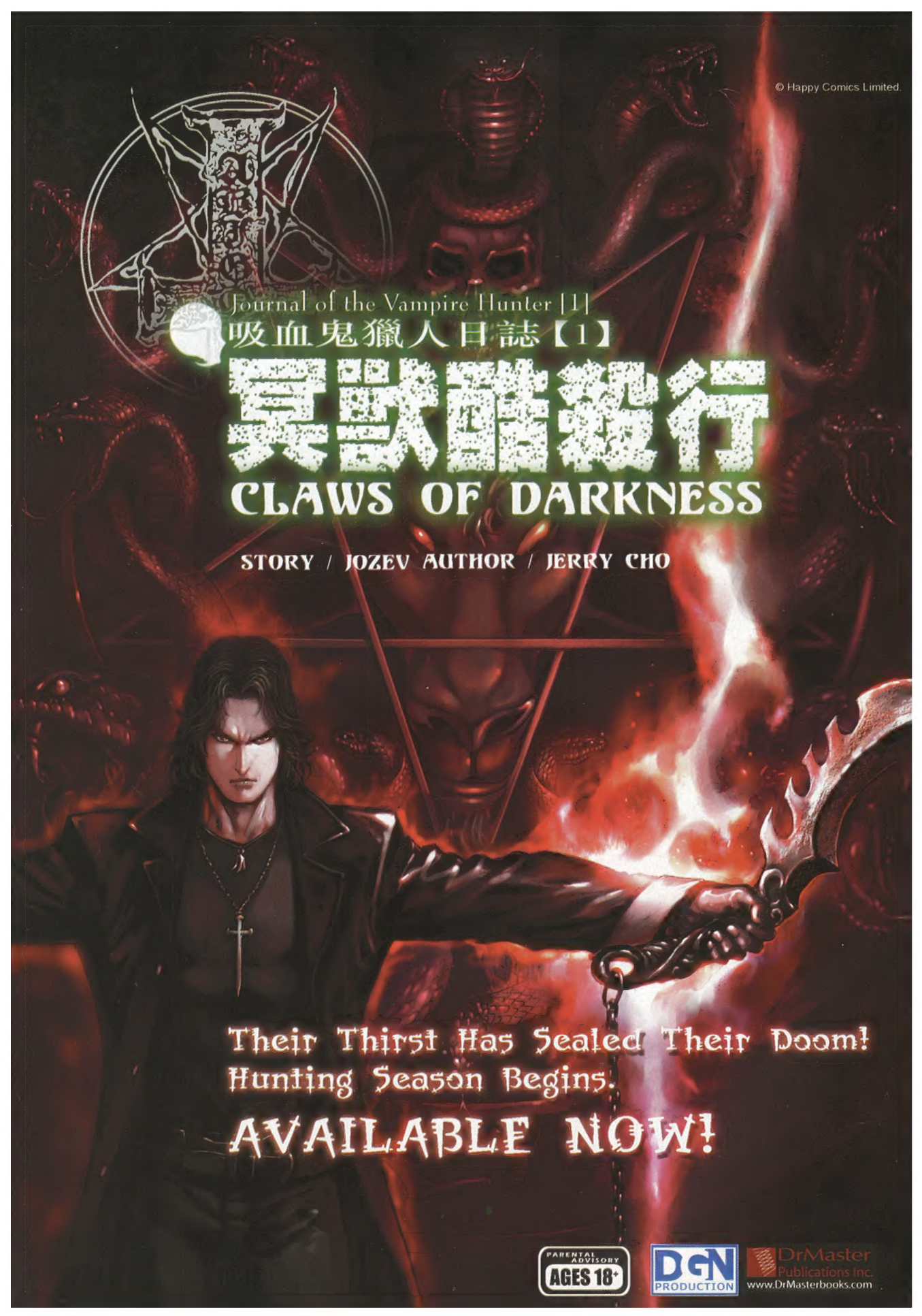
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HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
The giant kid takes a hit from the umbrella and feels the strength leave his limbs.
HERO HUA STARES BACK AT JIAN WITH THE SAME LOOK.
AS HE RUNS BY, JIAN FEELS AN INCREDIBLE SENSE OF FAMILIARITY. HE TURNS BACK TO LOOK AT THE MAN...
Father and son stare into one another's eyes, will they recognize each other?

HEY, COME HERE AND LOOK...
哇!
Jian slips between the Milk and Chocolate Groups, like a small mouse darting from place to place, it's almost comical!
咪!
IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSI-NESS!

DON'T WALK SO FAST!

鏘!
The Sovereign Umbrella deflects the baseball bat with incredible force!

IT'S LATE, WE SHOULD GET BACK SOON!
WHY CAN'T WE WALK TO-GETHER SLOWLY ?

LET'S GO! WE DON'T WANT TROUBLE!

吐
AH!

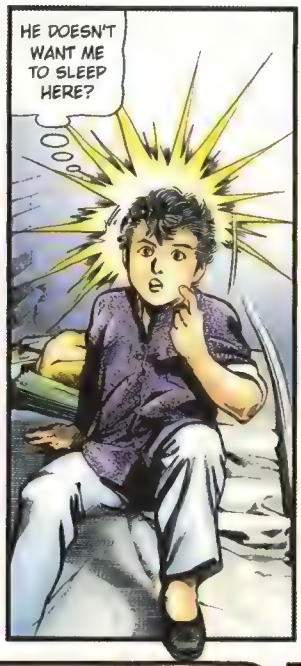
HUH? THERE'S A CHINESE KID IN THERE!

!咻
YA!
KAIHO
砰

Jian doesn't know what is happening. He fights only out of self-defense!
Each gang thinks that Jian is a member of the opposite faction.
I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
Amongst the chaos...

What's going on?
做什麼?
THE TWO GROUPS CHARGE TOWARDS ONE ANOTHER LIKE EXPLODING DYNAMITE.
Jian does not know why the two groups are attacking him. He decides that he needs to take the initiative.

WHOEVER LOSES TONIGHT WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE!


HE DOESN'T WANT ME TO SLEEP HERE?

THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE BOSS FOR THIS TERRITORY! WE'LL SEE WHO THE BOSS IS TONIGHT!
With the lack of social order, youngsters bent on destruction band together. This particular gang is the –
THE MILK MEN

Not only do the two gangs fight over territory, but the final victor can gain admission to the ultimate gang...
Black Dragon Gang, America's largest, most powerful underground gang, with members in every town and city!

Behind Jian are their arch-nemesis –
THE DUECES
HE MUST LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. NEVER TO RETURN!

<EXCUSE ME, WHERE IS CHINATOWN?>°
At night, Jian, Jian knows that he should head to Chinatown to find a place to rest.
?
° IN CHINESE
JIAN HAS ARRIVED IN AMERICA, AND EVERY-THING FEELS NEW AND EXCITING TO HIM!
BECAUSE THIS NEW PLACE IS FILLED WITH VITALITY. THE NIGHT SHINES WITH NEON LIGHTS, HE FEELS AS IF THIS PLACE IS MORE SPECIAL THEN ANY PLACE HE HAS BEEN BEFORE.
NOT ABLE TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE, JIAN SEARCHES INTO THE NIGHT FOR CHINATOWN. HE DOESN'T FEEL DOWN...
THIS PLACE SEEMS PRETTY GOOD!
HA HA, I CAN SPEND A COMFORTABLE NIGHT HERE!
!唬

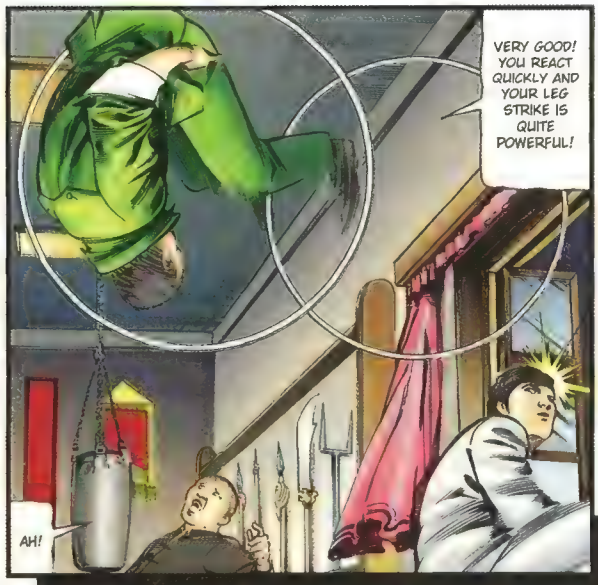
With a quick shrug, a slim flexible weapon emerges from Wu Yuan's sleeve.
Nine Section Chain Whip
九節鞭

The situation forces Wu Yuan to take action!
VERY WELL, LET ME TEST YOUR NO SHADOW STYLE!

But Lohan's skill is beyond impressive.
The King of Weapons
vs.
The Master of Shadowless Kick!
But why does Lohan want to overthrow the Zhen Fang Kung Fu School?

With Wu Yuan as backup, Zhen Fang feels he has nothing to fear, and attacks Lohan with his three-section staff!
AH!

BUT BEFORE YOU STRUCK, THAT STANCE SHOWED THREE FATAL FLAWS.


VERY GOOD! YOU REACT QUICKLY AND YOUR LEG STRIKE IS QUITE POWERFUL!
AH!

Wu Yuan's weapon prowess far exceeds his bare hand styles, so he politely gives thanks.
THANK YOU FOR THE POINTERS!

WILL YOU REALLY DRIVE ME AWAY FROM THIS PLACE?
Zhen Fang Yuan sees the two speaking amicably, and attempts to instigate a fight!

IF YOU WANT ME TO LEAVE, THEN LETS SEE HOW GOOD YOU REALLY ARE!

I HAVE ALREADY MADE MY INTENTIONS KNOWN, YET YOU ARE CLEARLY NOT READY TO LEAVE THIS PLACE! HMPH!

The man is actually – Lukas...
After fifteen years, he has grown older, yet his strong fighting spirit and aura have not diminished in the least!

More than twenty students fall to the ground unable to stand!

The Ground Leg Sweep blows through the students like a wind whipping through fallen leaves...

A strong gust of wind bursts through the second story windows and a man flips in over the heads!

Wu Yuan is shocked to see such a strong martial artist!
OH!

But the opponent has no intention of attacking! He merely flits past Wu Yuan's kick like lightning!

Wu Yuan reacts quickly in case there is a surprise attack. He lifts his legs to protect his head.

HIS STEPS ARE SO LIGHT AND SOFT, HE IS CLEARLY A LIGHT-FOOT EXPERT!
HE'S HERE! ALL THE STUDENTS OF ZHEN FANG MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL HAVE TURNED UP TO STOP HIM!
SHUT UP!
WHERE'S MASTER YUAN?
呼
HMPH! I WILL HAVE TO TEACH YOU A LESSON!
吼
地堂腿
Ground Leg Sweep
啪!

THE MAN'S OUTRAGEOUS WORDS FORCED MASTER ZHEN FANG TO FIGHT.
About one month ago, an unwanted guest showed up at Zhen Fang Martial Arts School...
A man came and declared that he would take over the building in one month. He gave Zhen Fang Martial Arts School that much time to vacate!
The students rushed forward, but Master Zhen Fang stopped them. First its not right to gang up on one man, also there was still no surety of victory.
The man was incredibly strong and defeated Master Zhen Fang easily.
I DON'T KNOW! I'VE NEVER MET THIS MAN BEFORE! I'VE ASKED MY STUDENTS, BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE HAD ANY DEALINGS WITH HIM!
UNCLE, WHAT DOES SUCH A POWER WANT WITH YOUR MARTIAL ARTS SCHOOL?
NOW THE TIME IS UP AND HIS KUNG FU IS TOO STRONG. I HAD TO CALL YOU FOR HELP.
AH, HE'S REALLY HERE!
MASTER, HE'S HERE...
ZHEN FANG YUAN, THOUGH EMBARASSED, TELLS WU YUAN EVERTHING.

GOOD-BYE!
GOODBYE, LITTLE BROTHER!
THE MASTER SENT ME TO GET YOU MASTER YUAN! YOUR CAR IS READY! THIS WAY PLEASE!
Chinatown
THE CAR TAKES ITS PASSENGERS QUICKLY TO -
ARE THINGS REALLY THAT SERIOUS?
MASTER YUAN, YOUR UNCLE IS MOST ANXIOUS!
UNCLE, I CAME AS SOON AS I RECEIVED YOUR TELEGRAM. WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
MY NEPHEW, THANK GOODNESS YOU ARE HERE!
The school-master, Zhen Fang Yuan, rushes forward to greet Wu Yuan.
振方武館
Zhen Fang Martial Arts School

JIAN HAS ARRIVED ALONE IN A NEW COUNTRY! HE FEELS LOST AND HAS NO CLUE WHERE TO GO FROM HERE.
AMERICA, A RAPIDLY DEVELOPING COUNTRY.
HMM, IT'S YOU AGAIN!
YOU RECOGNIZED ME BECAUSE OF THIS! RIGHT?
DEATH GATE HAS TURNED SHANGHAI UPSIDE DOWN LOOKING FOR YOU, HOW COULD I NOT KNOW YOUR NAME?!
HEY, ARE YOU JIAN XIONG HUA?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
Yuan Yuan
MASTER YUAN!
WOW! THIS GUYS IS REALLY SMART!
FROM THE UMBRELLA, IT WAS EASY TO FIGURE OUT THAT YOU'RE JIAN XIONG HUA!
THE SOVEREIGN UMBRELLA IS ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD, I NOTICED IT THE MOMENT YOU GOT ON THE SHIP!

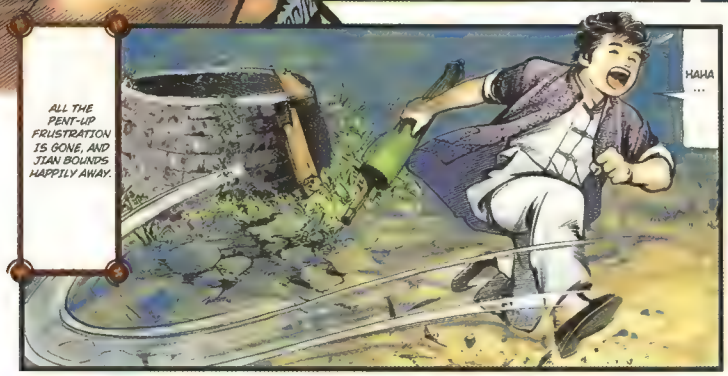
THIS IS A LONG JOURNEY. I HOPE I FIND DAD!

A pair of sharp eyes gaze towards Jian...
The ship does not allow pets, so Jian has to find a way to hide Silver Hawk.
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE! I WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO RELIEVE MY BOREDOM!

He ignores the man and turns at the next corner.
Jian returns the look with a funny face!
The gaze comes from a young man on the top deck. He knows that Jian has seen him looking down, so he smiles back.

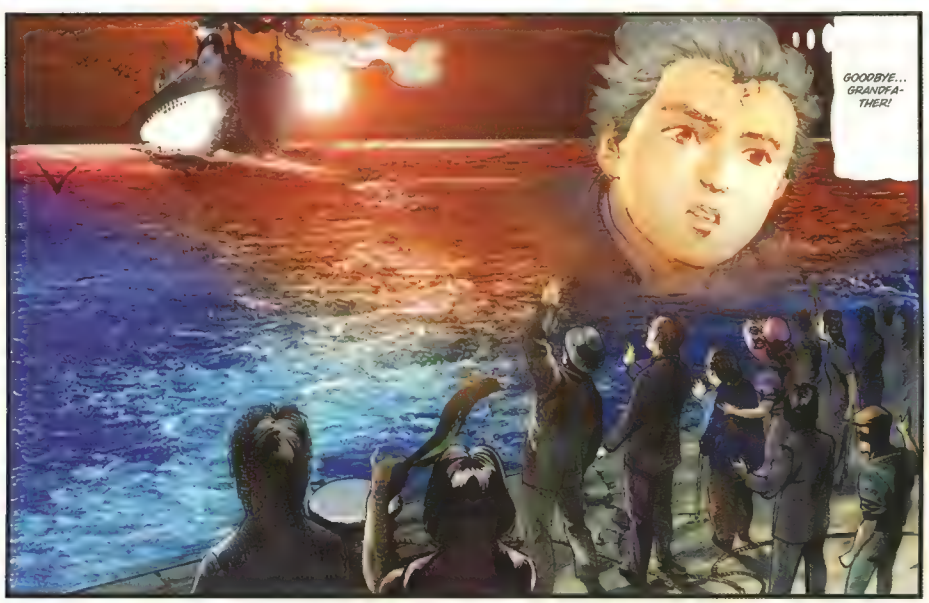
YOU GAVE ME THREE MEALS A DAY, SO I MADE THIS JUST FOR YOU! HA HA HA!

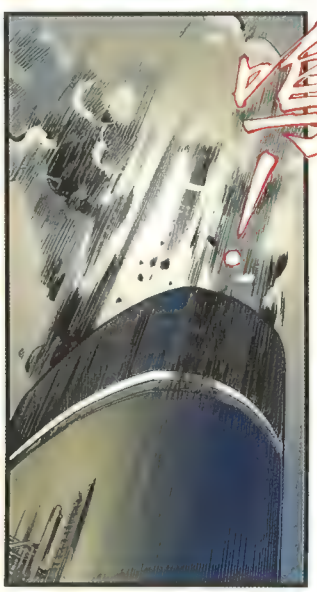
THAT SMELL! THIS IS... UGH!


ALL THE PENT-UP FRUSTRATION IS GONE, AND JIAN BOUNDS HAPPILY AWAY.
HAHA ...

FAT MONK, I DON'T DO WELL WHEN TRICKED AND FORCED INTO SOMETHING! UNDERSTOOD?
PUNK, YOU...

But thinking of how quickly Jian is able to leave the well after learning the martial arts within the Heaven Scrolls, he feels fortunate that he's found such a talent!
Sihai Yu has suffered another humiliating defeat!

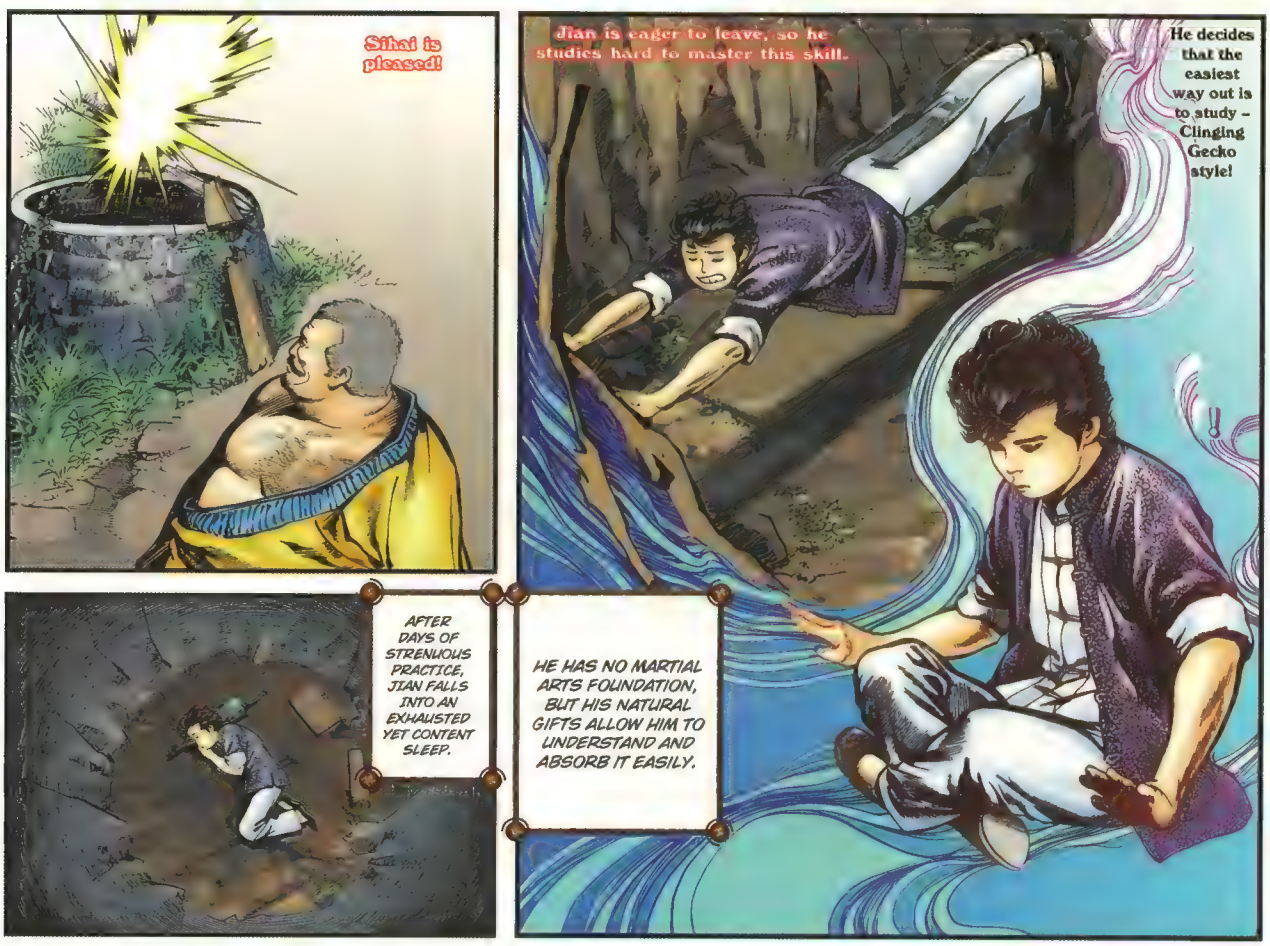

GOODBYE... GRANDFA-THER!


!!

Jian is very smart, but even he cannot figure out how this has happened.
When he wakes, he finds himself outside the well!
He lowers the food, but gets no reaction. Looking down, he sees that Jian gone!
AS USUAL, SIHA! COMES TO JIAN HIS BREAKFAST...
Next morning
WAH!
There are no tunnels at the bottom of the well, yet Jian has escaped!
Thinking that he must be mistaken, he jumps down for a closer look!

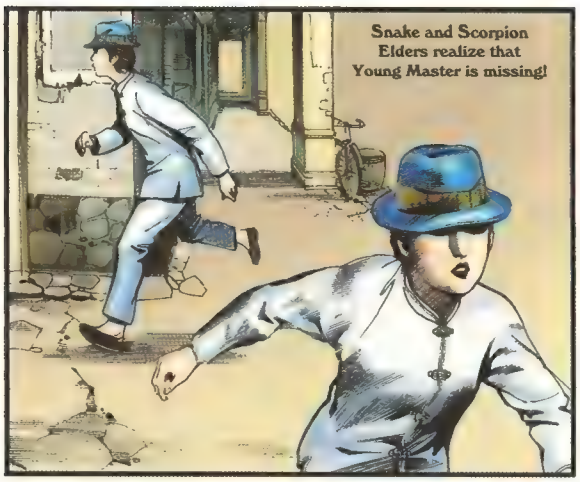
Who's calling me?
小鬼王!
Young Master!
17th Leader of Death Gate – Jian Xiong Hua
第十七代鬼門雄
Young Master... I have come to help you escape this place!
In his dreams, Jian floats along behind the old man!
Please follow me!

THE HEAVEN SCROLLS JUDGES THE ABILITY OF EACH SUCCESSOR AND SHOWS ITSELF ACCORDINGLY. JIAN'S EXTRAORDINARY POTENTIAL IS HIGHLY REGARDED, AND HE IS ABLE TO READ MOST OF THE HEAVEN SCROLLS!
After the ceremony, he is mysteriously able to see the words in the Heaven Scrolls!
But, he is uninterested in the various martial arts described here, he's only looking for something that will help him get out of the well.
Finally he has to bow to reality!
Jian has been trapped in the well for several days now, and cannot think of a way to escape!

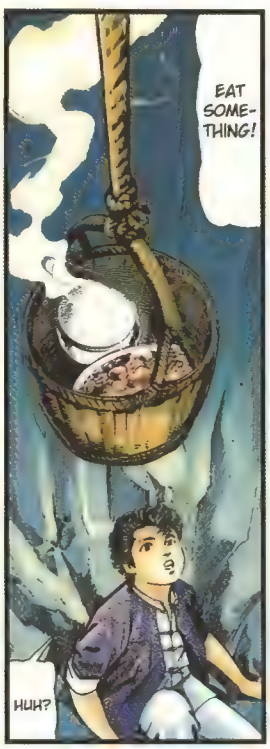

Sihai is pleased!
Jian is eager to leave, so he studies hard to master this skill.
He decides that the easiest way out is to study – Clinging Gecko style!
AFTER DAYS OF STRENUOUS PRACTICE, JIAN FALLS INTO AN EXHAUSTED YET CONTENT SLEEP.
HE HAS NO MARTIAL ARTS FOUNDATION, BUT HIS NATURAL GIFTS ALLOW HIM TO UNDERSTAND AND ABSORB IT EASILY.

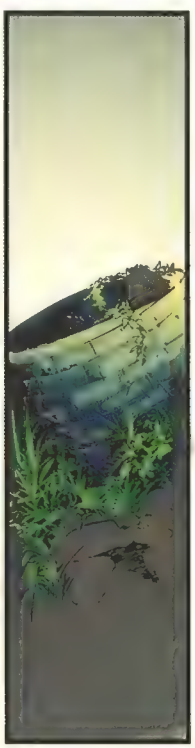
GET OUT OF THERE IF YOU CAN. IF NOT, THEN GO AHEAD AND STUDY THE HEAVEN SCROLLS!
I DON'T WANT THE HEAVEN SCROLLS! YOU THINK THIS ABANDONED WELL WILL HOLD ME FOR LONG?
HA HA! THE HEAVEN SCROLLS ARE THE MOST COVETED TREASURE A MARTIAL ARTIST CAN DREAM TO HAVE... AND I'M PASSING THEM TO YOU! MANY WILL SAY I'VE DONE YOU A FAVOR, SO THEY WON'T SAY ANYTHING BAD ABOUT IT!
Sihai lowers himself down for Jian every day.
ON NAMELESS ISLAND, JIAN HUMILIATED HIM, SO SIHAI YU IS ALSO ENJOYING A LITTLE PAYBACK!
SIHAI KNOWS THAT LEARNING THE HEAVEN SCROLLS WILL TAKE MUCH LONGER THAN A FEW DAYS. HE'S PREPARED TO SPEND SOME TIME HERE.
LIGHT THE INCENSE TO HONOR THE HEAVEN SCROLLS, THEN SECRETS WILL BE REVEALED AND YOU WILL TRULY BE MY SUCCESSOR!
WHAT'S HE UP TO NOW?
Aside from the food, there are also some ceremonial items.

OPENING THE BOX, HE FINDS ...
The Heaven Scrolls!
天書
The soil on the indicated wall is especially loose.
SO, YOU'RE HOPING THAT I'LL WANT TO BECOME THE SUCCESSOR TO THE HEAVEN SCROLLS. I IMAGINE THEY'RE THE ONLY WAY I CAN ESCAPE THIS WELL. THIS WAY IT WON'T MAKE YOU LOOK BAD, RIGHT?
YOU'RE A SMART ONE. I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S UP!
Jian's pupils enlarge slightly, but then he casually tosses aside the kung fu manual that many martial artists would kill for.
IT'S A GOOD IDEA, BUT A BIT SHADY FOR A TOP-RANKED MARTIAL ARTIST LIKE YOU! IF THIS WERE TO GET OUT, IT WON'T LOOK GOOD FOR YOU!
IT'S AS IF JIAN IS ABLE TO READ SIHAI'S MIND. HE SEEMS TO KNOW EVERTHING!



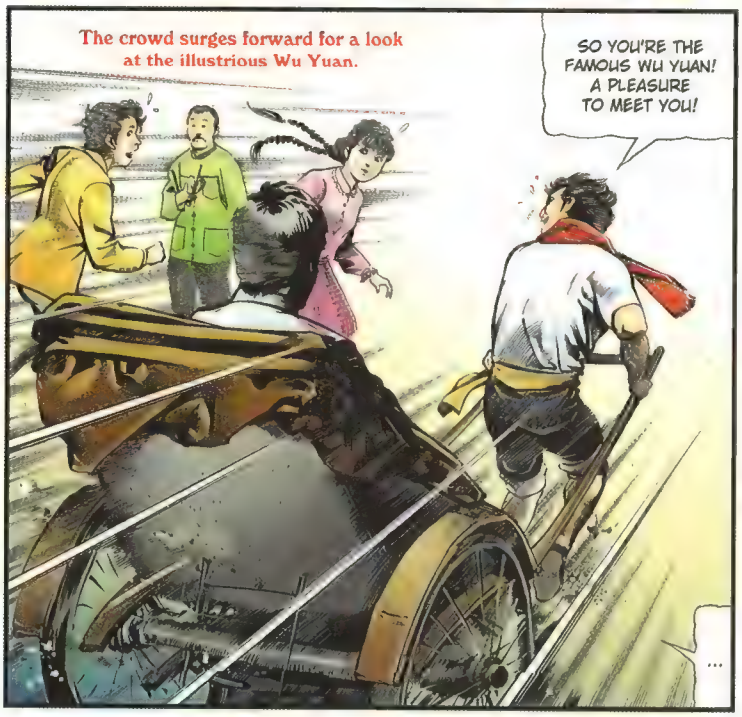
The Bull Brothers take the chance to escape!

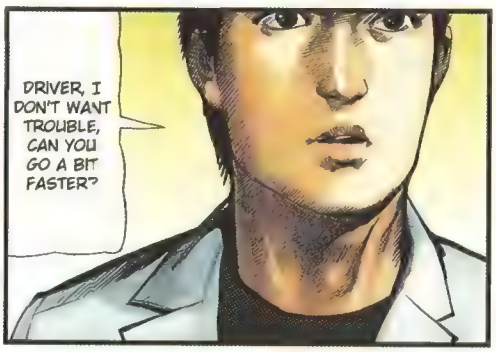


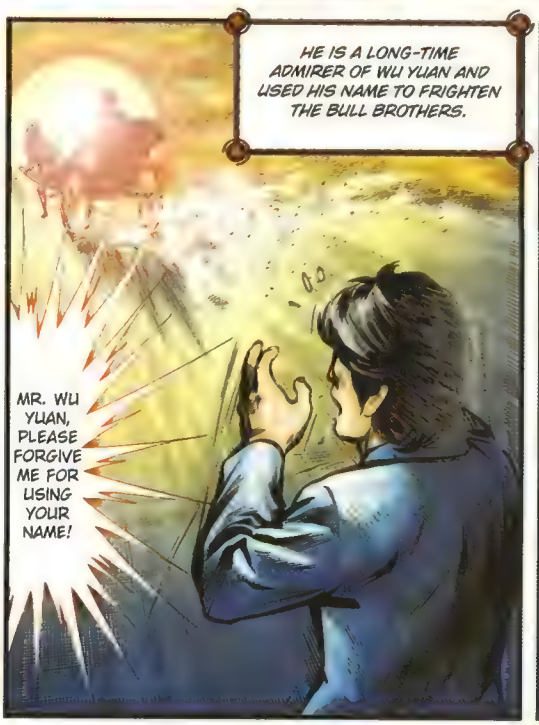


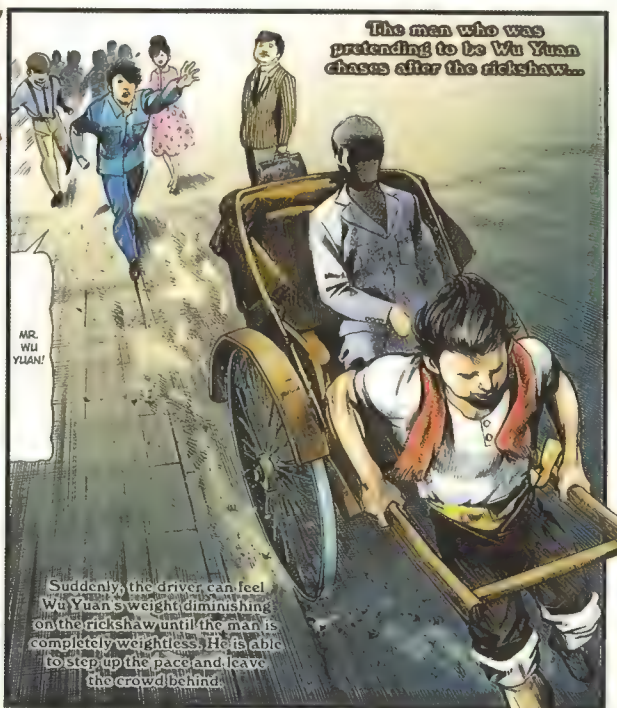
THAT MUST BE THE LEGENDARY HERO... WU YUAN!

THAT POWER AND SKILL REQUIRED TO SHATTER THE STONE COFFIN STUNS THE BULL BROTHERS. COLD SWEAT POURS DOWN FROM THEIR BROWS!
HE...


The crowd surges forward for a look at the illustrious Wu Yuan.
SO YOU'RE THE FAMOUS WU YUAN! A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!
...


DRIVER, I DON'T WANT TROUBLE, CAN YOU GO A BIT FASTER?

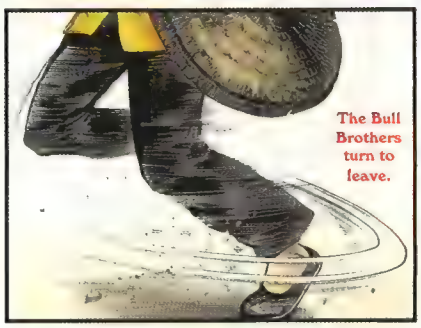

HE IS A LONG-TIME ADMIRER OF WU YUAN AND USED HIS NAME TO FRIGHTEN THE BULL BROTHERS.
MR. WU YUAN, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR USING YOUR NAME!


The man who was pretending to be Wu Yuan chases after the rickshaw...
MR. WU YUAN!
Suddenly, the driver can feel Wu Yuan's weight diminishing on the rickshaw until the man is completely weightless. He is able to step up the pace and leave the crowd behind.

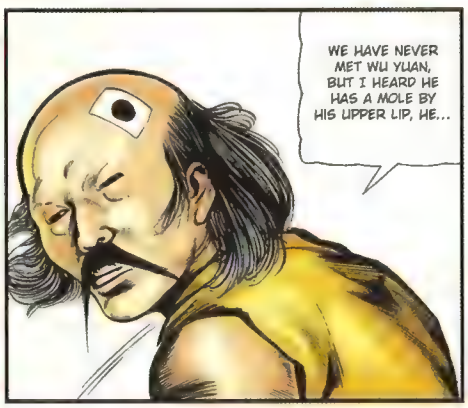
Mad Bull feels that he has been played and angrily lifts up the stone coffin!
DON'T WORRY, LET ME TAKE CARE OF HIM!
FRIEND, WHY...
A loud boom resonates and the coffin in Mad Bull's hands is instantly shattered!
DRIVER, START THE RICKSHAW!
YES... YES!
HUA!

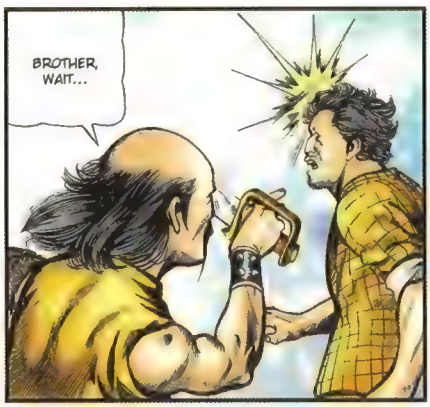
HMPH! ALL RIGHT! GET OUT OF HERE!

SIR, PLEASE LET US GO!
BACK ON THE STREET, WITH THE APPEARANCE OF THE FAMOUS WU YUAN, THE TWO BULL BROTHERS ACT MORE SUBDUED.


The Bull Brothers turn to leave.

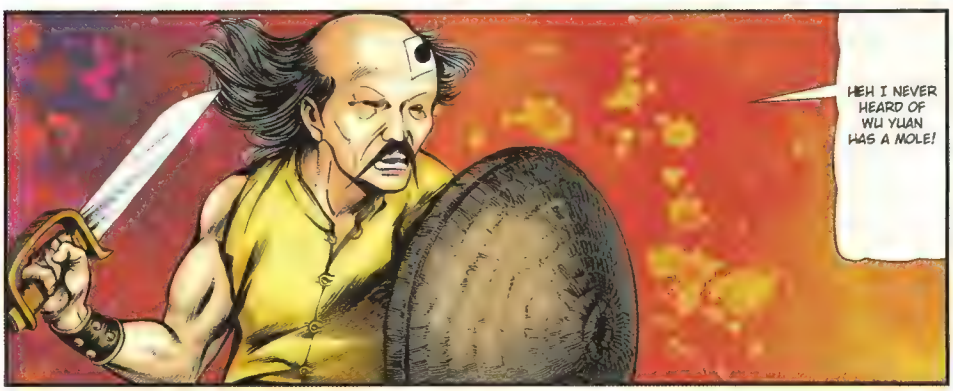
啊!


WE HAVE NEVER MET WU YUAN, BUT I HEARD HE HAS A MOLE BY HIS UPPER LIP, HE...


BROTHER, WAIT...

啪!
AH!

噗!
Wu Yuan is caught off guard, Terror Knife quickly attacks...


HEH I NEVER HEARD OF WU YUAN HAS A MOLE!

Fierce Dragon Crossing River

中華英雄

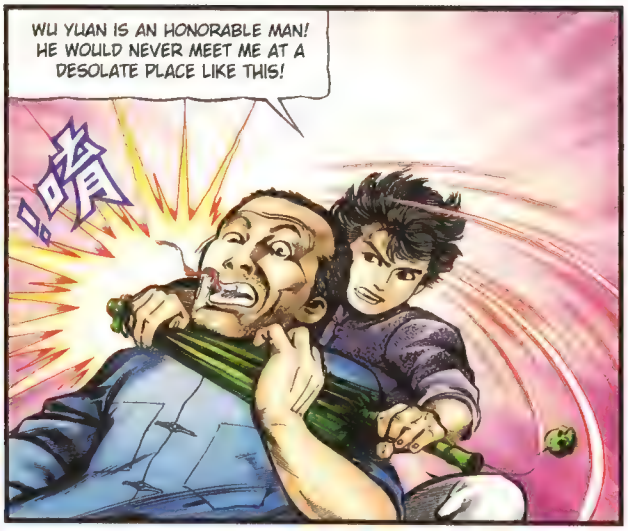
Chinese Hero

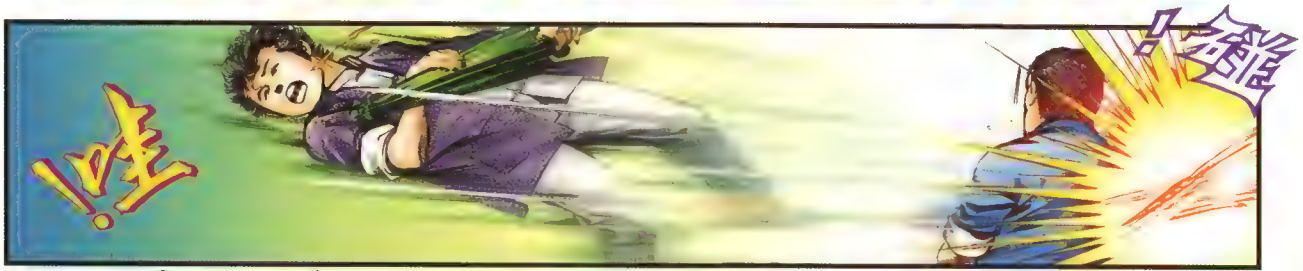
-Tales of the Blood Sword-

Chapter 16:

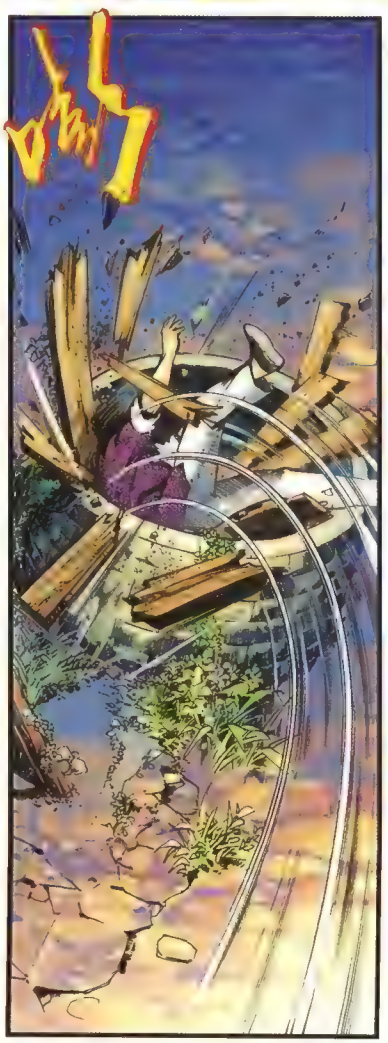
Fierce Dragon Crossing River

YOU ARE SMART, BUT IT'S TOO LATE!


WU YUAN IS AN HONORABLE MAN! HE WOULD NEVER MEET ME AT A DESOLATE PLACE LIKE THIS!
嗖


哇
嗖

FALLING FROM SUCH A HEIGHT CAN EASILY MAKE ONE A CRIPPLE OR A CORPSE. WHO'S AFTER JIAN NOW?!


啪

On the boat, the Snake and Scorpion Elders explained the current situation in the martial arts world.

WU YUAN!

I WAS ASKED TO LOOK FOR YOU BY A MAN NAMED WU YUAN, HE IS LOOKING FOR YOU!

Sihai Yu mentioned this name.

Wu Yuan is righteous and hates evil of all kinds! He is the bane of evildoers everywhere!

He is well-versed in most styles and skilled in all major weapons. He has been dubbed "KING OF WEAPONS."

Due to his extraordinary talents, he could easily claim the number one spot in the martial artsworld... yet he does not seek fame or fortune, making him an incredible hero...

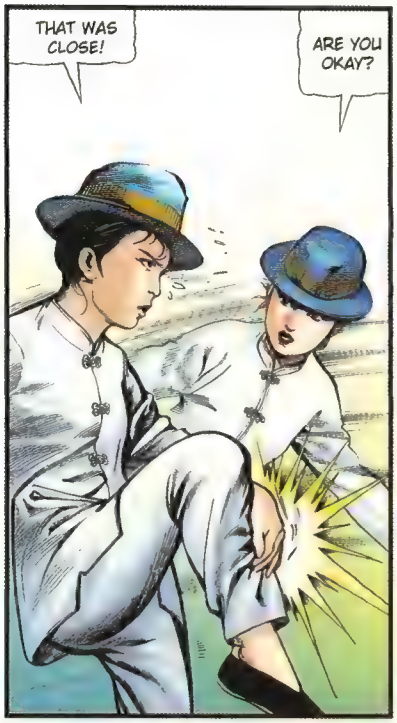
Jian knows that Wu Yuan is a prominent figure in the martial arts world.

The man leads Jian to an abandoned house.

Jian is fascinated and follows this man.

I'M WU YUAN, PLEASE STOP FIGHTING!
...
MAD BULL WAS ENTRANCED, BUT UPON HEARING WU YUAN'S NAME, HIS HEAD IMMEDIATELY CLEARS!
Jian intentionally stirred up trouble with the Bull Brothers, to escape the Snake and Scorpion Elders.
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU - JIAN XIONG HUA?
HA HA! I'M FREE!

White Snake leaps in with a kick starting the battle...
Terror Knife Snowflakes Covering Head
MAD BULL ONCE AGAIN FACES WHITE SCORPION...
BEFORE THE BATTLE BEGINS, HE HAS ALREADY BEEN STUNNED!
White Scorpion begins with her trademark...


THAT WAS CLOSE!
ARE YOU OKAY?

HOW DARE YOU INTERFERE IN OUR BUSINESS! YOU'RE ALL GONNA DIE!

Mad Bull
These two have been causing trouble all over Shanghai. They're the infamous Bull Brothers!
Terror Knife

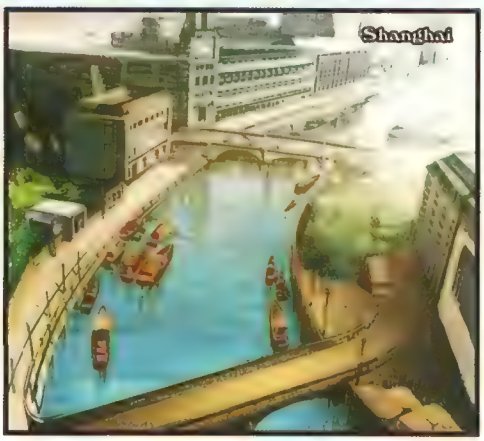
MAS-ER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M OKAY, BUT TEACH HIM A LESSON!
砰
箱
大哥！Big Brother!
噴
噗
Suddenly a compartment opens on the coffin!
哐

I WANT YOU TO MOVE THIS COFFIN NOW, OR ELSE!
BEING LECTURED BY A CHILD IS MORE THAN THE MAN CAN STAND!
One for the family records!

FRIEND, TODAY IS THE GRAND OPENING OF OUR BAR, PLEASE MOVE YOUR COFFIN, THIS IS EXTREMELY INAUSPICIOUS FOR US!
THERE'S SOMETHING FUN GOING ON OVER THERE!
THIS IS PLAIN EXTORTION, IS THERE NO LAW AND ORDER IN THIS WORLD?
ALL RIGHT, SINCE IT'S A GRAND OPENING, THEN I WILL MOVE THE COFFIN. GIVE ME FIVE-HUNDRED TAELS OF SILVER!

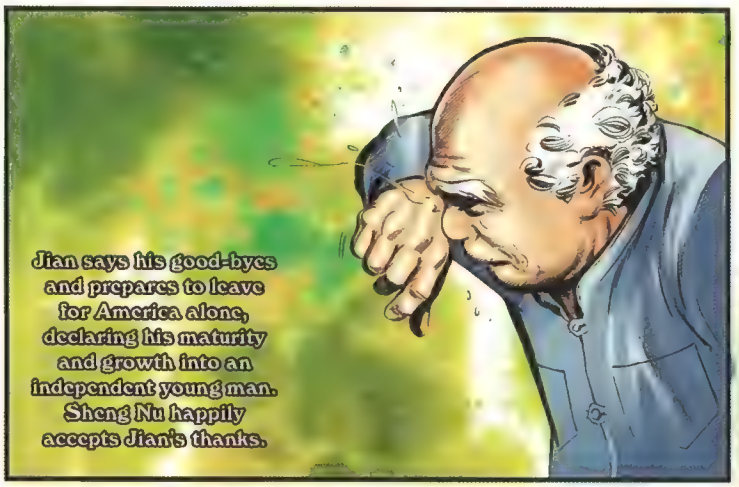
SHANGHAI IS THE VERY IMAGE OF A BUSTLING METROPOLITAN CITY.
HA HA! LOOK AT THIS CITY AND ALL OF THESE TALL BUILDINGS!
STINKY TOFU!
All right!
!DA!
One cannot refuse the order of one's master!
YES!
THIS IS SO GOOD, WHY DON'T YOU TWO TRY IT?!
THAT SMELL... IT STINKS!

Everyone is excited to bring the Young Master back to meet the Elders and report on the success of the mission.

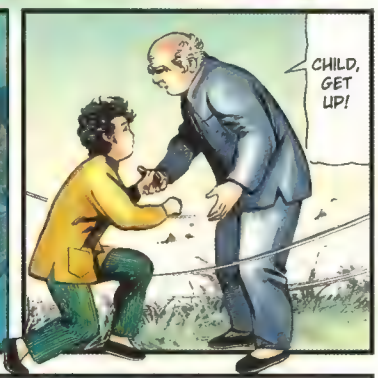


GRANDFATHER, THANK YOU FOR RAISING ME ALL THESE YEARS. I AM ASHAMED THAT I WILL NOT BE HERE TO REPAY THIS DEBT. PLEASE ACCEPT MY THANKS!

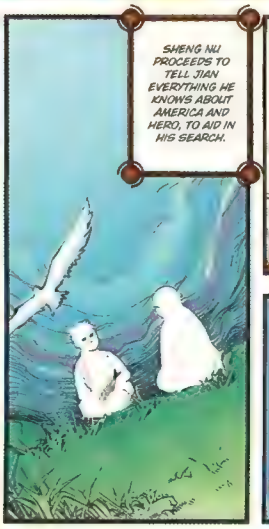
GO TO AMERICA! I'LL WAIT FOR YOU AT THE FISHING VILLAGE...


Jian says his good-byes and prepares to leave for America alone, declaring his maturity and growth into an independent young man. Sheng Nu happily accepts Jian's thanks.

NO!
I WILL TEACH YOU INFINITE HEDRON STYLE SO YOU MAY PROPERLY DEFEND YOURSELF!


CHILD, GET UP!

THE NEXT DAY, SHENG NU SAYS HIS FOND FAREWELLS.
THIS BOAT WILL TAKE SHENG NU STRAIGHT BACK TO THE FISHING VILLAGE.


SHENG NU PROCEEDS TO TELL JIAN EVERYTHING HE KNOWS ABOUT AMERICA AND HERO, TO AID IN HIS SEARCH.

I ALREADY OWE YOU FAR TOO MUCH, KEEP IT FOR YOUR HEALTH!

Knowing that he can not sway Jian, Sheng Nu remains quiet.

BUT ONCE LEFT ALONE, THE NEW YOUNG MASTER'S MIND SEEMS TO WANDER.
JIAN'S CONDESCENDING TONE MAKES SIHAI FEEL LIKE A FOOL.
HMPH!
IF YOU DON'T FIND ANYBODY IN TWO YEARS, COME BACK TO ME AND I MAY RECONSIDER!
Evening
Near dusk, the Snake and Scorpion Elders have personally sent away the martial artists.
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR FATHER. YOU WANT TO GO TO AMERICA TO FIND HIM...
AH!
JUST GO!
GO IF YOU WANT TO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
AY...

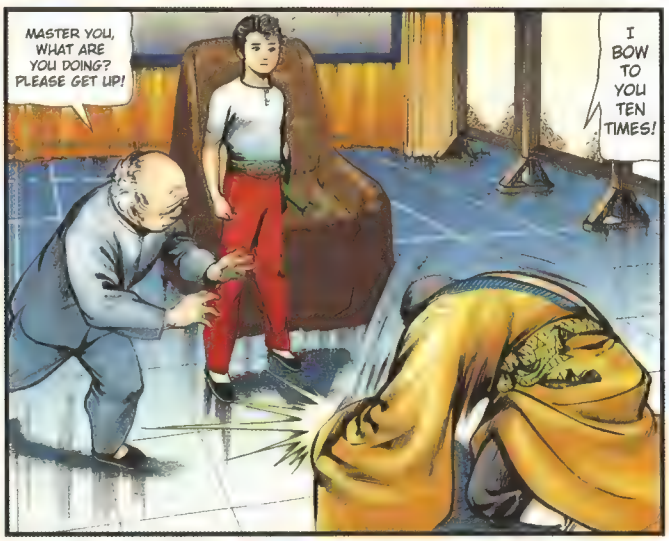
?气

HE HURRIES INTO THE ROOM AND CLOSES THE DOOR TIGHT!

BROTHER YOU!..

BUT HE IS YOUR ELDER.. HOW CAN YOU!

GRANDFATHER, IT'S OKAY. HE OWES ME.

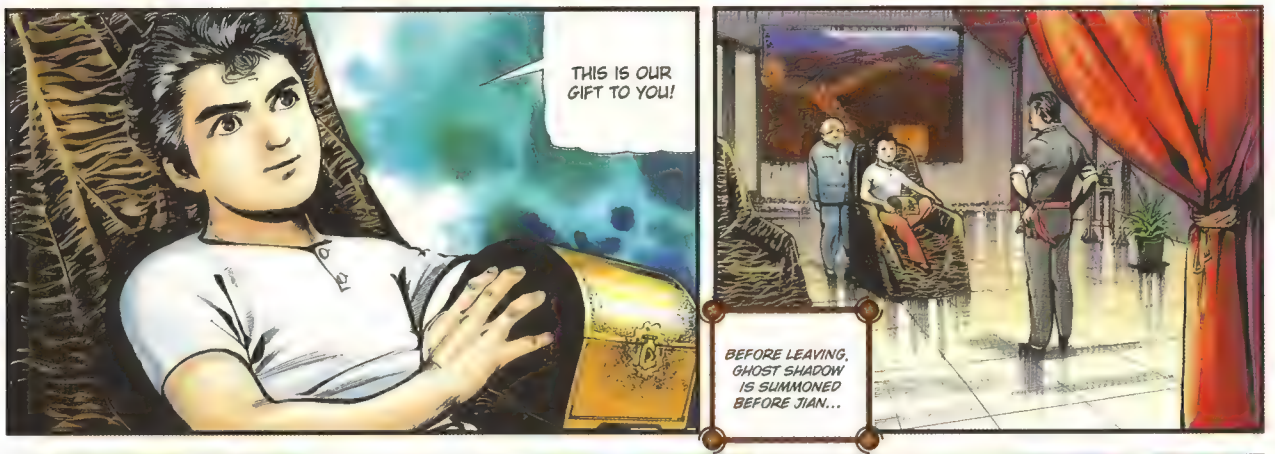

MASTER YOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? PLEASE GET UP!
I BOW TO YOU TEN TIMES!

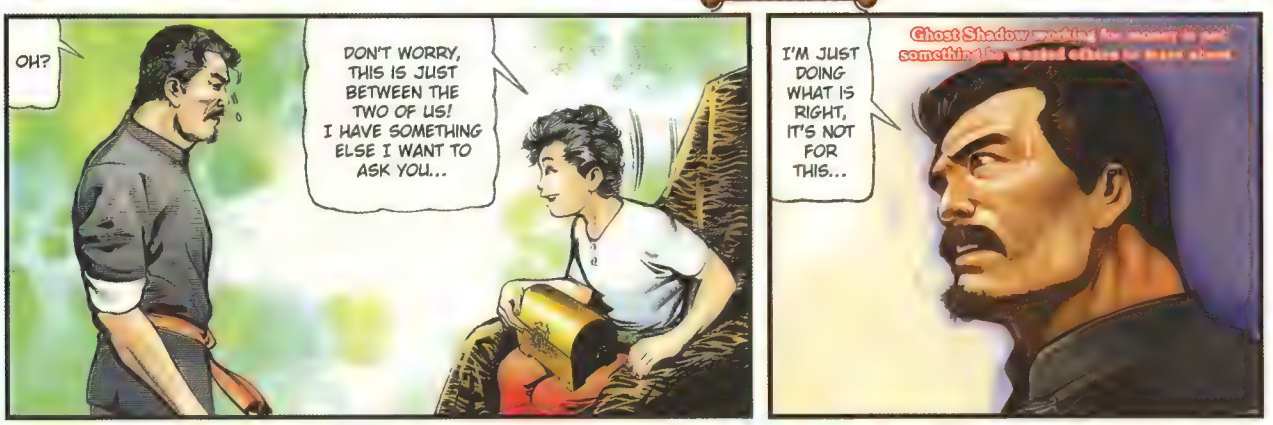
UNTIL NEXT TIME!

YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE, THAT'S A TRUE HERO!
Sihai, you kowtowed ten times!

ACTUALLY I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE HEAVEN SCROLLS, BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE A SUCCESSOR!
THE WORLD IS LARGE, I WILL FIND A SUCCESSOR!

AFTER THE CEREMONY, DEATH GATE SENDS THE MARTIAL ARTISTS BACK ON BOATS PROVISIONED WITH FOOD AND WATER.
IN THE MOMENT OF BRILLIANCE, EVEN SHENG NU COULD ENVISION A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD FOR JIAN, SO LONG AS HE CAN HELP DEATH GATE BECOME A FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE WORLD.


THIS IS OUR GIFT TO YOU!
BEFORE LEAVING, GHOST SHADOW IS SUMMONED BEFORE JIAN...


OH?
DON'T WORRY, THIS IS JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF US! I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE I WANT TO ASK YOU...
I'M JUST DOING WHAT IS RIGHT, IT'S NOT FOR THIS...

THE LAST TIME I SAW HERO WAS IN AMERICA!
WE WANT TO KNOW HERO HUA'S WHEREABOUTS!

HA HA! SUCH AN ODD UMBRELLA!
THE SOVEREIGN UMBRELLA IS A MYSTIC ITEM THAT WILL GIVE YOU BLESSINGS FROM THE GODS AND ONE SYMBOLIZING THE GLORY OF DEATH GATE.

DOES IT REALLY HAVE MYSTICAL POWERS?
JIAN LIFTS THE SOVEREIGN UMBRELLA HIGH INTO THE AIR. HIS POWERFUL AURA IS SPREAD FURTHER IN THE SHADOW CREATED BY THE UMBRELLA, ENVELOPING THE DEATH GATE MEMBERS BELOW. IT FILLS THEM WITH A SENSE OF WARMTH AND EXCITEMENT.

MAYOR, I THINK I REPRESENT ALL HERE WHEN I SAY, IT WOULD BE OUR GOOD FORTUNE IF YOU WERE TO FORGIVE US. I CAN PROMISE THERE WILL BE NO MORE TROUBLE.
SINCE DEATH GATE'S ARRIVAL ON THIS ISLAND, THEY HAVE NOT BOTHERED US. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE THAT TRADITION AND KEEP THE PEACE!
Nameless Village is a place where once-powerful fighters retire.
The elders smile, pleased with Sheng Nu's assurance!
THAT NIGHT SHENG YU TELLS JIAN ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED FIFTEEN YEARS AGO AND WHAT LED HIM TO BECOME THE SUCCESOR.
With this, Jian becomes the new Young Master of Death Gate
THIS INCIDENT HAS SHOWN THE MARTIAL ARTISTS AND DEATH GATE THAT THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE MORE SKILLED IN THE WORLD.
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS SEAL OF YOUR LEADERSHIP, THE SOVEREIGN UMBRELLA. YOU ARE NOW THE SEVENTEENTH LEADER OF DEATH GATE!
IN THE BRIGHT NOON SUN, DEATH GATE HOLDS A SUCCESSION CEREMONY PASSING OVER THE PROOF OF LEADERSHIP.

After the construction is completed, the elderly of Nameless Village show themselves.
In a matter of moments, the collapsed beams of the house have all been replaced.
NOT A PROBLEM. NEIGHBORS SHOULD ALWAYS HELP ONE ANOTHER!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!
Only top martial artists could rebuild this house with such speed and skill.
HA HA! YOU OLD FOLKS ARE AMAZING! THAT WAS GREAT!
I GUESS SO...
CHILD, I AM THE MAYOR OF NAMELESS VILLAGE. ARE YOU THE YOUNG MASTER OF DEATH GATE?
ONE OF THE ELDERS FLOATS TOWARDS JIAN.

HE'S MY GRANDFATHER AND NO ONE CAN BE DISRESPECTFUL TOWARDS HIM!
PLEASE FOR-GIVE ME, MAS-TER!
啊!
HUA! THOSE PEOPLE ...
刘
YOU HEARD HIM. SLAP YOURSELF ONE-HUNDRED TIMES AS REPARATION TO THE OLD MASTER!
YES!
They all look back toward the house to find more than ten people rebuilding it...
啊!
They must have approached in complete silence!
IM-PRES-SIVE.

PUNK, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
Not knowing which side to help, the martial artists stand aside!
Jian did not realize that his words would cause such a commotion and is momentarily stunned!
YOU WANT US TO APOLOGIZE TO YOUR PET? WE'LL SEE HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE!
HA HA HA
VERY SIMPLE. JUST APOLOGIZE TO MY FRIEND!
JIAN, SILVER HAWK IS FINE, DON'T CAUSE MORE TROUBLE!
DEATH GATE MEMBERS STAND AT ATTENTION, AWAITING JIAN'S ORDERS!
MY PROBLEMS ARE NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
HEY! HOW DARE YOU SCOLD OUR YOUNG MASTER, OLD MAN?

NO ONE KNEW OF THEIR DEFEAT. THE TWO DEVELOPED A DEEP RESPECT FOR SOUTHERN FIST MASTER!
The two understood that in this world there is always someone better!
THIS WAS JUST PRACTICE. I WILL NEVER SPEAK OF IT AGAIN. NOW GO. TRAIN HARD!
Southern Fist Master knew the value of saving face, and did not want the two to leave in shame.

IS THAT IT? ALL AFTER YOU INJURED MY SILVER HAWK?

Wait, stop!
Since Jian is related to Southern Fist Master, they will not interfere.

With Jian's outburst, Death Gate members surround the two elders.
AH!

HE IS MY GRANDSON! HAS HE DONE SOMETHING TO OFFEND YOU?
WHO IS THIS YOUNG CHILD TO YOU, THAT YOU WOULD DO SO MUCH TO SAVE HIM?
AH! THAT'S RIGHT... HE'S THE OLD MAN SERVANT THAT WAS FOLLOWING HERO FIFTEEN YEARS AGO! DIDN'T HE FALL DOWN THE CLIFF?
YOU MAY LEAVE NOW!
It's all because of Southern Fist Master...
MY MASTERS ARE ALWAYS SO STUB-BORN, WHAT WOULD MAKE THEM CHANGE THEIR MINDS?
MY STUDENT, YOU TAKE CARE AND FIND A SUCCESSOR!
The two joined forces but after half a day of battle, their internal chi was exhausted, and they were defeated by Southern Fist Master.
Full of pride, they challenged the top ranking Southern Fist Master!
Thirty-five years ago, the two elders mastered the Heaven Scrolls and developed the Seizing Dragon and Clinging Gecko styles, instantly gaining fame in the martial arts world.

!噢
哈
THE CROWD THEN LOOKS TO THE QUIET, UNASSUMING SHENG NU, NOW THAT THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS POWERS HAVE BEEN REVEALED!
DEATH GATE MEMBERS MOBILIZE AS THE TWO APPROACH!
THAT STRIKE YOU JUST DID, WAS THAT "MEASURELESS SEAS" FROM THE "INFINTE HEDRON" PALM STYLE?
MASTER, THIS MATTER OF SUCCESSOR CAN NOT BE FORCED, HOW ABOUT WE...
The reappearance of Infinite Hedron Palm reminds Ghost Shadow of Hero Hua!
INFINITE HEDRON WOWED THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD WITH ITS POWERS MORE THAN A DECADE AGO, UNTIL SOUTHERN FIST MASTER RETIRED. THE GATHERED MARTIAL ARTISTS ARE STUNNED.
CORRECT!
HE...

The Skull Goblins immediately respond, hearing the anxiety in Jian's voice!
AH, SILVER HAWK IS TRAPPED INSIDE!
OH NO, YOU'RE BADLY HURT!
Death Gate is pleased to finally see their Young Master so happy!
吓

CLINGING GECKO IS SENT CAREENING LIKE AN ARROW SHOT FROM A BOW!
THE CROWD RUSHES FORWARD TO PROTECT JIAN FROM HARM!
Blood shoots from Clinging Gecko's mouth. He's bleeding internally!
DON'T WORRY GRANDFATHER, I'M FINE!
AH! THOSE TWO MYSTERIOUS BLACK-CLAD MEN ARE SIHAI YU'S MASTERS!
MY STUDENT, COME PROTECT US!
Clinging Gecko immediately sits to meditate and heal himself.

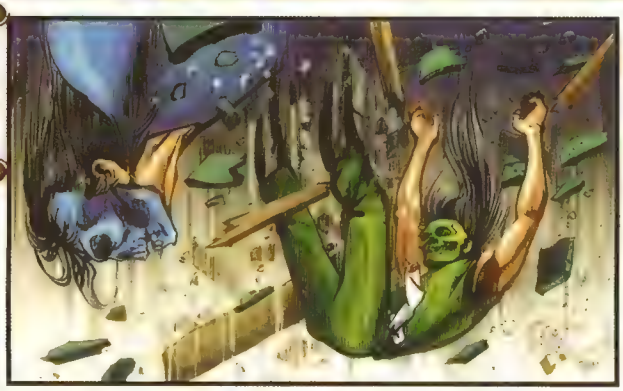
Sobing Dragon is shocked!
Still, Forged Bone Technique allows them to jump from the rubble unharmed!

SHENG NU'S INFINITE HEDRON PALM BOOMS OUT LIKE AN OCEAN WAVE!

BUT ANOTHER SCENE IS NO LESS IMPRESSIVE!

TYPE
DOESN'T
SHOT
呼～～～呼～～
After pulling back his chi the three are sent crashing into a small house...

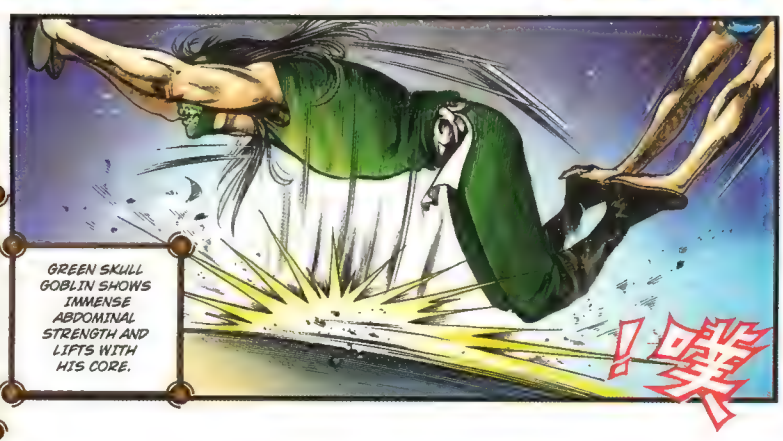
THE HOUSE COLLAPSES UNDER THE EXTREME FORCE!
哗啦！



!鏘
YET HE BLOCKS WITH MINIMAL EFFORT.
AH!
!呀
依!
WITH A SUDDEN TURN, THEY ATTACK SEIZING DRAGON'S LEGS...
So he lunges back yanking the Three Skull Goblins along!
!呀
!呀
!呀

Seizing Dragon Style contains a strange property which sticks attackers together so there is no pulling back.

They must now fight to the finish!



中華英雄
Chinese Hero

-Tales of the Blood Sword-

Chapter 15:

Sovereign Umbrella

AS SEIZING DRAGON IS BLOCKED, CLINGING GECKO RUSHES TOWARDS JIAN. THE SNAKE AND SCORPION ELDERS ARE TOSSED ASIDE BY THE FURY OF HIS TIGER CLAWS...
！嗯
GRANDFATHER!
Measureless Sea
！波
SHENG NU PUSHES JIAN ASIDE TO COUNTER CLINGING GECKO. THE COLLIDING ENERGIES SET OFF A LOUD BOOM, EVIDENCE OF THE STRENGTH IN BOTH THEIR POWERS!

YOUNG MASTER, WATCH OUT!
The Skull Goblins are first to react...
！嗖
！噗
！噗

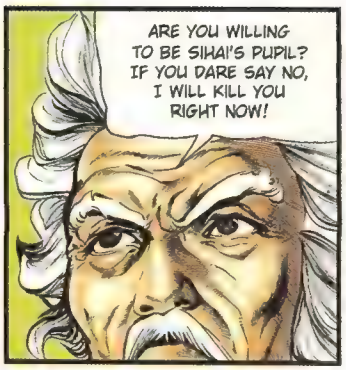
As more than one hundred people kneel before Jian, he is seized with confusion.

AH!
YOUR YOUNG MASTER IS BACK...
GHOST SHADOW FLIES OUT OF THE HOUSE, AND BEFORE JIAN CAN REALIZE WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THEY HAVE ALREADY LANDED.

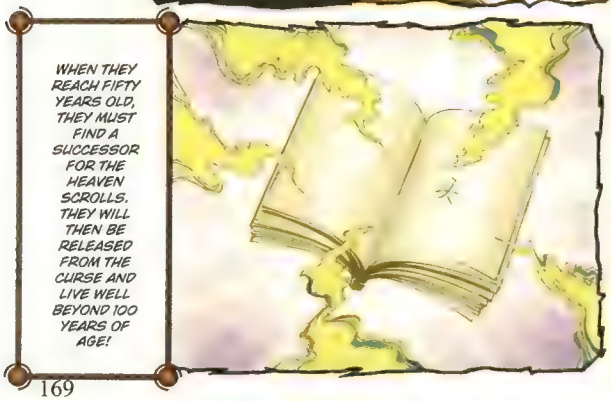
!嘿
!呱
HEY LET GO!
Clinging Gecko's slaps a table and uses his chi to launch an oil lamp.
!乒
!砰
AH!
AH!
!呱

哇!
PUNK, YOU CAN NOT ESCAPE!
Seizing Dragon Talon Style!
AH!
銀鷹 Silver Hawk
哇!
AT THE SAME TIME, A RAY OF SILVER LIGHT BREAKS THROUGH THE CEILING!
JIAN'S EARLIER SCREAM WAS IN FACT A CALL TO SILVER HAWK!
哎!

Clinging Gecko and Seizing Dragon have received the blessed protection the chieftain promised and are enjoying their latter years in Nameless Village.
THE CHIEFTAIN USES THE CURSE TO ENSURE THAT THE HEAVEN SCROLLS WILL BE PASSED ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION!
Sihai Yu is fairly talented and after much practice, has become one of the top fighters at the age of forty!
Clinging Gecko and Seizing Dragon dared not defy the the Heaven Scrolls, and passed the book on to Sihai Yu when they were forty-nine!
IF THEY ARE UNABLE TO FIND A SUCCESSOR BY THE TIME THEY REACH FIFTY, THEN THE EVIL CURSE WILL CAUSE THEM TO DIE OF A HORRIBLE DEATH!
There's someone outside!
VERY GOOD! NOW BOW BEFORE YOUR TEACHER!
While they are distracted, Jian lets out a loud scream and jumps straight up!



Yet how the Heaven Scrolls are perceived is dependent on the ability of the of the successor.



The chieftain had set a curse upon the Scrolls. Each person who becomes the successor must follow a rule,

He finds it increasingly difficult to look Jian in the eyes and feels the urge to lower his head.
Sihai Yu's eyes are immediately met by Jian's sharp stare!
THAT TROUBLE-MAKER!
LOOK CLOSELY AT THAT YOUNG BOY OVER THERE!
HUH?
YOUNG MAN, YOU ARE LUCKY INDEED. I WANT TO MAKE YOU MY STUDENT! DO YOU HEAR ME?
HE HAS EXTRAORDINARY BONE STRUCTURE AND STRONG YANG CHI. IF HE WERE TO PRACTICE THE HEAVEN SCROLLS, HE WOULD DOMINATE THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD!
VERY WELL, I WILL OPEN YOUR PRESSURE POINTS SO YOU MAY TELL ME YOURSELF!
WAH!!
AS SOON AS HIS PRESSURE POINTS ARE RELEASED...
嘿
嘿
嘿

I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A SUCCESSOR FOR THE HEAVEN SCROLLS SINCE I WAS FOURTEEN!
HAVE YOU FOUND A SUCCESSOR FOR THE HEAVEN SCROLLS?!
FORTY-SIX...
Three years ago, I met a martial arts genius. His name was —
Wu Yuan.
He would have been the ideal candidate. He was passionate about martial arts and had already explored several schools of martial arts. He expressed some interest in the heaven scrolls, but when I mentioned being a successor to them, he flat-out refused!
HUH? HEAVEN SCROLLS ARE ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL STYLES IN EXISTENCE. IT IS THE COVETED DREAM OF ALL MARTIAL ARTISTS, YET HE REFUSED?
BESIDES WU YUAN, I HAVE NOT FOUND ANY OTHER ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATES!
SIHAI, YOU HAVE DISAPPOINTED US GREATLY...
HOW CAN OTHER STYLES COMPARE TO THE HEAVEN SCROLLS?! WHAT A FOOL!
WU YUAN FELT THAT ONCE HE ACCEPTED, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO LEARN OTHER STYLES, SO HE REFUSED!

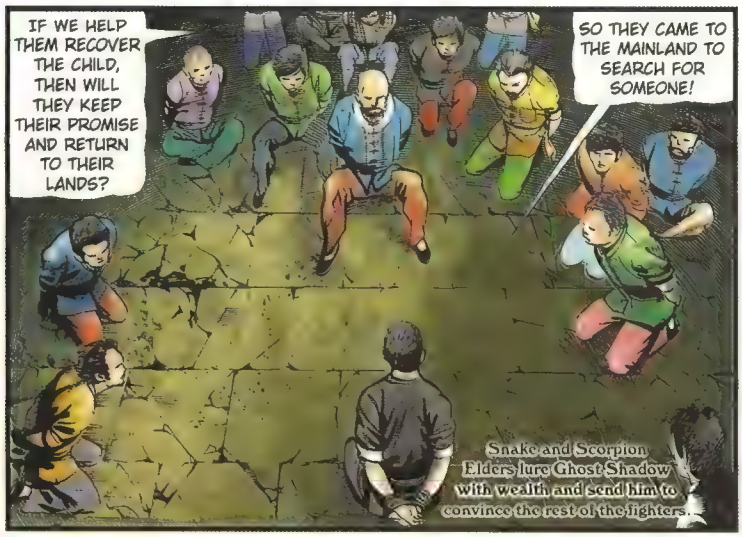
MASTER, I THANK YOU FOR SAVING YOUR STUDENT'S LIFE...
HUH?
The other man opens Sihai's pressure points.
HOW DARE YOU STILL CALL US YOUR MASTERS?!
HMPH! HOW DID YOU BECOME PRISONERS OF DEATH GATE? LUCKILY WE HAVE BEEN IN SECLUSION. OTHERWISE YOUR SHAMEFUL ACTIONS WOULD HAVE RUINED OUR REPUTATION!
擒龍
SEIZING DRAGON
CLINGING GECKO
壁虎
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
AH! I AM REALLY USELESS!
OH...
Jian is shocked. They moved with such speed and skill to be so elderly!

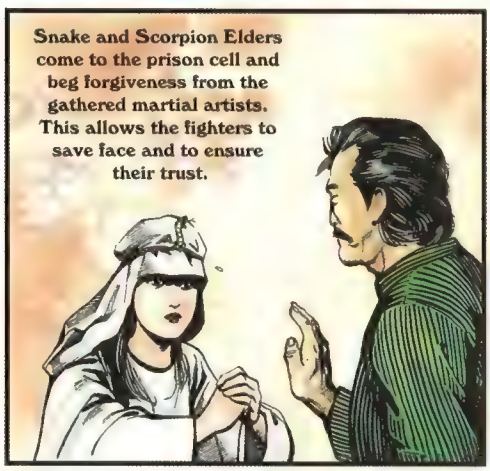
OF COURSE NOT. WE WOULDN'T DARE!
THE ELDERS HAVE SPOKEN, DO YOU OPPOSE THEM?
!
But seeing Ghost Shadow amongst the fighters upsets Sheng Nu.
IT'S GHOST SHADOW'S FAULT THAT HERO AND JIAN WERE SEPARATED!
Since Death Gate has accepted the martial artists' suggestions, their animosity has decreases.
THE SKULL GOBLINS ARE POWERFUL FIGHTERS. BUT UNDER CALM SCRUTINY, THEY REALIZE THE ELDERS HAVE HANDLED THE SITUATION SUPERBLY. THEY SUPPORT THEM FULLY!
MEANWHILE, SIHAI YU AND JIAN ARE STILL BEING WHISKED AWAY.
OUCH... THAT HURTS...
THE BLACK-CLAD MEN GLIDE INTO NAMELESS VILLAGE WITH THE TWO IN TOW...

STRATEGIST WU, YOUR NAME PRECEDES YOU. YOUR SUGGESTION IS WISE!
GHOST SHADOW ASSUMED A SIMILAR ROLE IN THE EARLIER ATTACK AGAINST DEATH GATE, SO HE KNOWS THE REQUIREMENTS WELL.
I AM WILLING TO PERFORM THIS TASK!
GHOST SHADOW HAS EXCELLENT LIGHTFOOT SKILL AND WILL SCOUT OUT THE VILLAGE. IF THERE ARE SIGNS OF JIAN XIONG HUA, THEN HE WILL SIGNAL US AND WE WILL TAKE ACTION! THIS WILL MINIMIZE THE CASUALTIES!
JUST THEN, BLUE SKULL GOBLIN JUMPS DOWN FROM THE HIGHEST POINT!
ANYTHING DANGEROUS TO THE YOUNG MASTER CANNOT BE CONSIDERED...
WE'RE WASTING TOO MUCH TIME, YOUNG MASTER IS STILL IN DANGER!

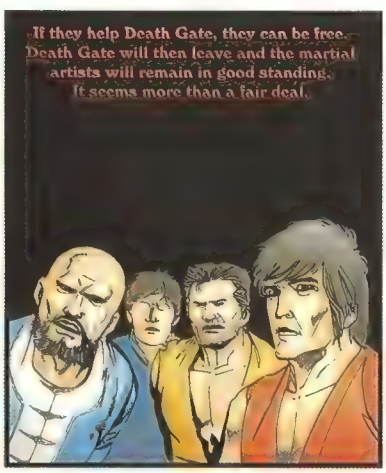
CLEAR THE VILLAGE AND RESCUE YOUNG MASTER!
CLEARLY THEY ARE HIDING IN THE VILLAGE OF THE ELDERLY!
WE HAVE ALREADY SEARCHED THE ENTIRE ISLAND. THERE IS NO SIGN OF THE BLACK-CLAD MEN OR YOUNG MASTER!
QUIET! LISTEN TO THE ELDERS!
TENSIONS ARE HIGH, SO ANGRY VOICES SHOUT BACK AND FORTH.
WE SHOULD RESCUE HIM, BUT WE MUST AVOID INVOLVING OR HURTING THE INNOCENT! PLUS, THE VILLAGERS ARE ALL ELDERLY!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I THINK WE SHOULD FIRST SURROUND NAMELESS VILLAGE...
The wise and strong leader of the Axe Gang is called Strategist Xu
MY LORDS, WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST THAT WE DO?!
The Square quiets, but the Elders are mindful of the martial artists' opinions!

WE ARE ALREADY THEIR PRISONERS, THEY HAVE ALREADY GIVEN US ANTIDOTES AND ALLOWED US TO RECOVER OUR STRENGTH AS A SIGN OF FAITH. I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY.


IF WE HELP THEM RECOVER THE CHILD, THEN WILL THEY KEEP THEIR PROMISE AND RETURN TO THEIR LANDS?
SO THEY CAME TO THE MAINLAND TO SEARCH FOR SOMEONE!
Snake and Scorpion Elders lure Ghost Shadow with wealth and send him to convince the rest of the fighters.

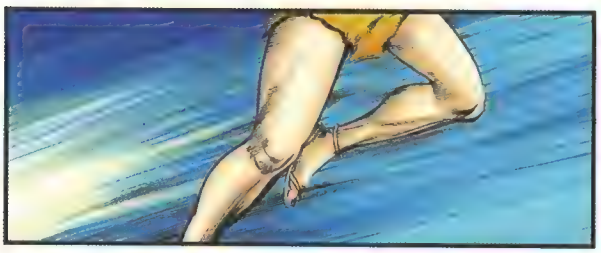

Snake and Scorpion Elders come to the prison cell and beg forgiveness from the gathered martial artists. This allows the fighters to save face and to ensure their trust.

Fine! We agree!


If they help Death Gate, they can be free. Death Gate will then leave and the martial artists will remain in good standing. It seems more than a fair deal.

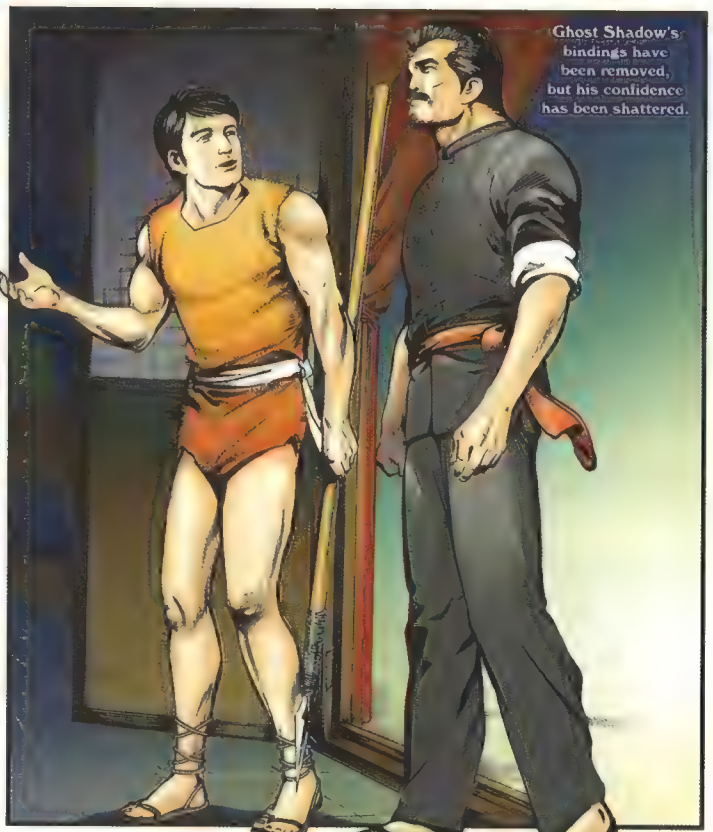
IN THE SQUARE, HUNDREDS GATHER.

BRING GHOST SHADOW TO US IMMEDIATELY!
YES!



PURPLE AND GREEN GOBLINS REACT QUICKLY AND MOVE EVEN QUICKER. THEY DECIDE TO WORK COHESIVELY WITH THE ELDERS TO RESOLVE THIS!
YES!

DEMONESS, WHAT TRICKS ARE YOU UP TO NOW?


Ghost Shadow's bindings have been removed, but his confidence has been shattered.

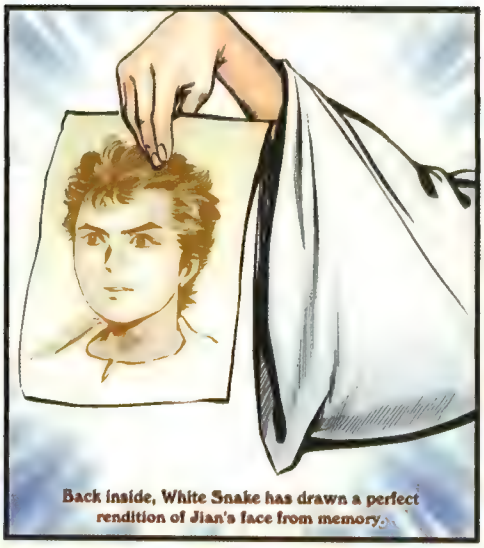
WE MEAN YOU NO HARM. BUT WE WOULD ASK A FAVOR OF YOU!

啊!

HERE ARE SOME GOLD AND JEWELS FOR YOUR TROUBLES, AND A MANUAL OF ONE OF THE HIDDEN STYLES OF DEATH GATE!

YOUR CHI WILL RECOVER IF YOU TAKE THIS ANTIDOTE!
I'M WILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR JIAN!
WE HAVE THE SAME GOAL, TO KEEP YOUNG MASTER SAFE. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL HELP US!
TELL THEM TO INCREASE SECURITY. NO ONE MUST BE ALLOWED TO ESCAPE THE ISLAND!
THE GHOST NAVY TROOPS HAVE SURROUNDED THE ISLAND. NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE!
WE HAVE SEARCHED IN THE EAST AND THE SOUTH, THERE'S NO SIGN OF THEM!
RALLY THE TROOPS, GATHER IN THE MAIN SQUARE, AND AWAIT ORDERS!
THERE'S ALSO NO SIGN OF THE YOUNG MASTER IN THE NORTH!

JI...JIAN XONG?! WHAT...


Back inside, White Snake has drawn a perfect rendition of Jian's face from memory.

WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

THEY ARE ESPECIALLY POWERFUL MARTIAL ARTISTS, AND THEY HAVE KILLED MORE THAN TEN MEMBERS OF DEATH GATE!

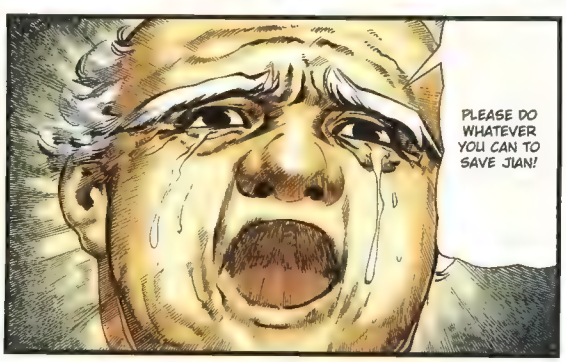
YOUNG MASTER IS NOT DEAD. HE HAS BEEN KIDNAPPED BY TWO BLACK-CLAD MEN!
They use this simple technique to confirm Jian's identity as the Young Master.

I HAVE ALREADY BLOCKED ALL ROUTES OF RETREAT. THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OFF THIS ISLAND!
AND WE HAVE MOBILIZED ALL OUR FORCES IN THE SEARCH!

IF... IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO JIAN, HOW WILL I EVER FACE HERO?

YOUNG MASTER'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!

MOST TROUBLING IS THE POWER OF THE TWO KIDNAPPERS. WE MIGHT NOT BE STRONG ENOUGH TO CATCH THEM.
OF COURSE! WE ARE JUST AS CONCERNED AS YOU OVER YOUNG MASTER'S SAFETY...


PLEASE DO WHATEVER YOU CAN TO SAVE JIAN!

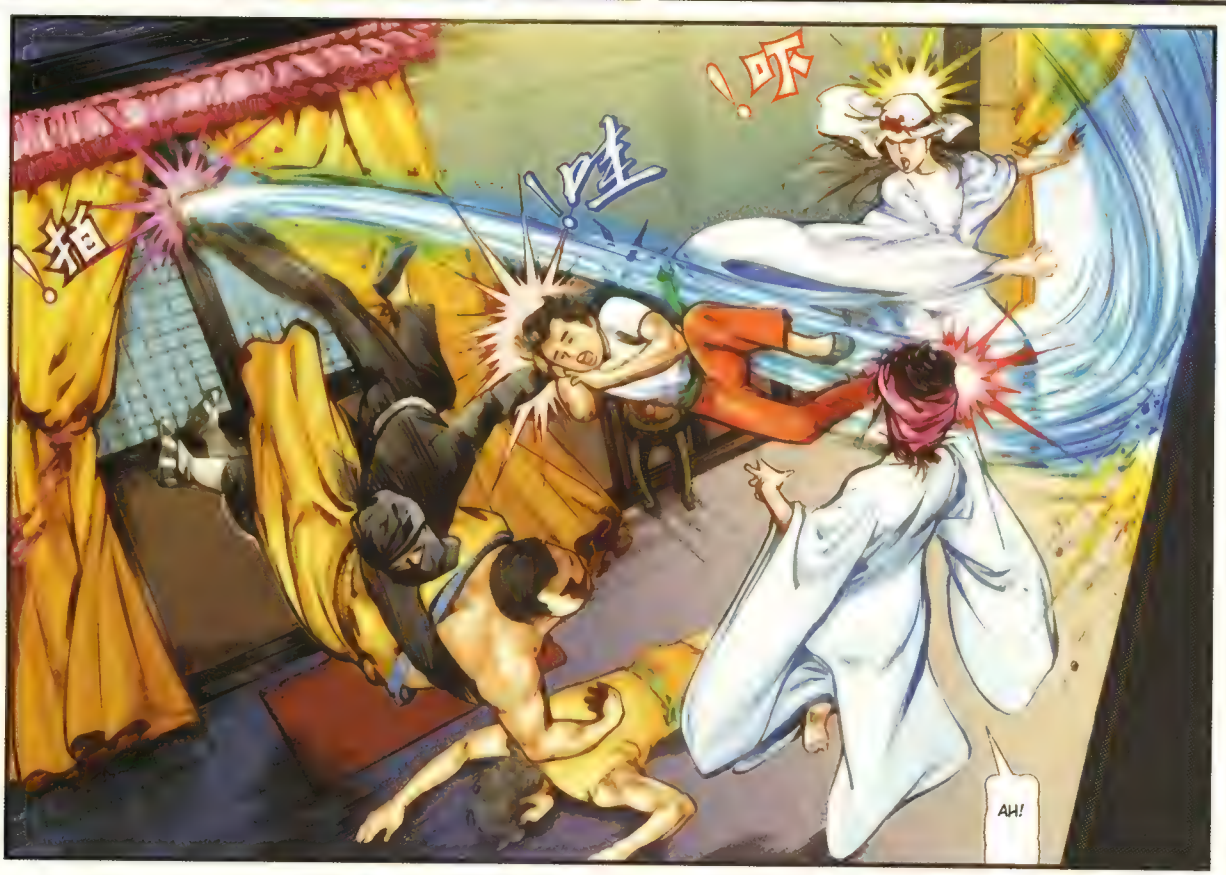
I WILL BE FORCED TO KILL!!
休怪老夫大開殺戒!!
In the small corridor, the shout echoes off the walls. Although Snake, Scorpion, and the three Skull Goblins are all accomplished martial artists, the sound wave is earsplitting and destroys their defenses!
!
YA!
WAH!
WHO'S THERE?
Hearing the commotion, the guards attempt to stop the invaders!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SLY, BUT I KNOW HOW STRONG YOU ARE! I'M NOT FOOLED!
WAH! YOU'RE GRABBING TOO TIGHT, LET ME GO!

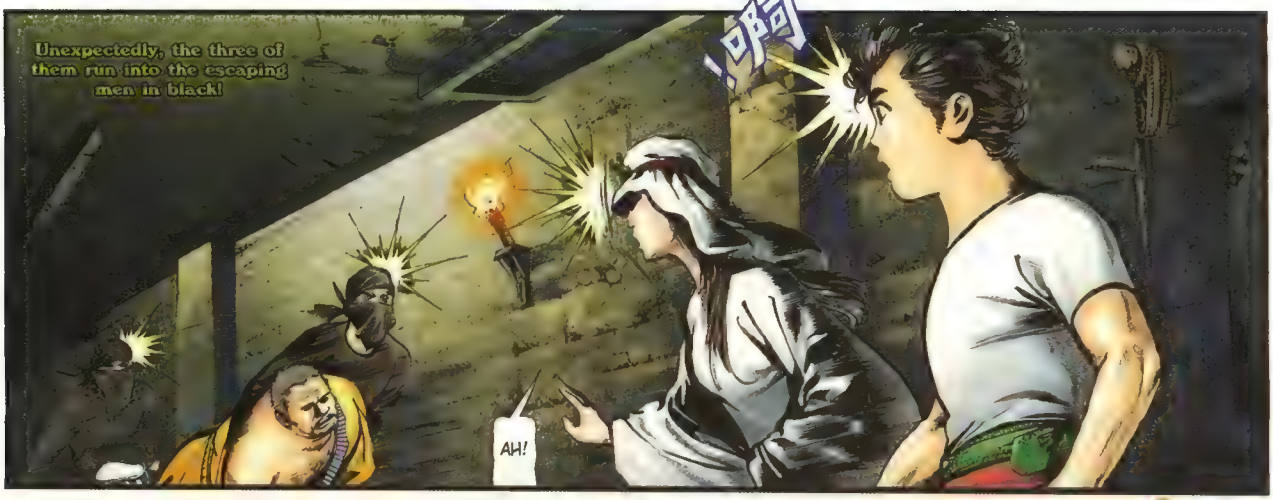
As soon as they leap forward, a sharp pain in their shoulders forces them to stop!
HE USES THE SAME STYLE TO PROPEL HIMSELF PAST THE SNAKE AND SCORPION ELDERS.
They scream in embarrassment as their clothes are ripped from their backs!
He amplifies his voice with an incredible chi!
We will be taking these two. If you come any closer, I will be forced to kill!
这两个人，我们就带走了。你们谁敢再上前一步，休怪老夫大开杀戒！

YOUNG MASTER, THESE TWO ARE SPIES, PLEASE ALLOW US TO CAPTURE THEM!
DO AS YOU WILL!

The claw form creates an impenetrable defense!

AH!
LOOK OUT!


AH!

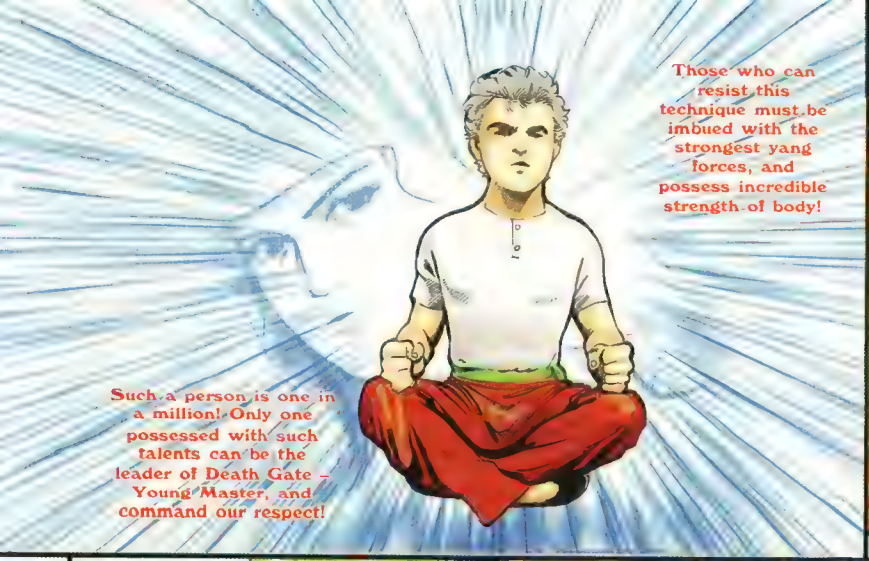

Unexpectedly, the three of them run into the escaping men in black!
AH!

As the black-clad man darts by, his eyes are drawn to the aura surrounding Jian, his eyes light up with excitement!

With only a short delay, the Skull Goblins have caught up.

WHAT IS HE DOING HERE? AND I AM BEING CARRIED LIKE AN INFANT. HOW SHAME-FUL.
HE'S SENT FROM THE HEAVENS!
BROTHER, WE HAVE FOUND HIM...

The two mystery men react even more quickly! One turns to fight while the other continues to flee!


Those who can resist this technique must be imbued with the strongest yang forces, and possess incredible strength of body!
Such a person is one in a million! Only one possessed with such talents can be the leader of Death Gate – Young Master, and command our respect!

The Awestruck Soul Technique is a culmination of yin forces!

WELL, I WAS DISRESPECTFUL TO YOU EARLIER. ARE YOU STILL PLANNING TO KILL ME?

YOUNG MASTER, I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS. I HAD NO IDEA.. IF I KNEW YOU...
EVEN WHITE SNAKE MUST SHOW SUBSERVIENCE, DESPITE HER EMBARRASSMENT...

MASTER, I WAS UNAWARE OF YOUR TRUE IDENTITY, PLEASE... FORGIVE ME!
JIAN'S WORDS MAKE WHITE SNAKE RECALL BEING NUDE IN THE BATH. HER FACE TURNS RED WITH EMBARRASSMENT...

BUT, I STILL WANT TO SEE THE ONE YOU HAVE CAPTURED! WHERE IS HE?

THAT'S OKAY, IT'S NO BIG DEAL. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT IT!
HEHE, SHE'S APOLOGIZING TO ME!

White Scorpion wants to watch Sheng Nu's reaction to determine if he truly is the Young Master!

WE WILL TAKE YOU!

MEANWHILE, WHITE SCORPION SUDDENLY KNEELS BEFORE JIAN, STUNNING ALL!
Young Master!
參見小鬼王！
！啊
The two black-clad men memorized their route on the way in, and retrace their steps perfectly.
SHE MUST BE MISTAKING ME FOR THEIR EXALTED LEADER! WELL, I MIGHT AS WELL GO ALONG WITH IT...
White Scorpion cannot contain her emotion.
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU ARE OUR YOUNG MASTER! WE HAVE SPENT FIFTEEN YEARS SEARCHING FOR YOU! THE HEAVENS HAVE FINALLY PITIED OUR EFFORTS AND SENT YOU TO US! IT IS OUR GREAT FORTUNE TO HAVE FOUND YOU!
ARE YOU CALLING ME YOUNG MASTER?!
Each night I collected the moon's rays to enhance my powers!
When I was young and the elders were teaching me the Awestruck Soul Technique...
ARE YOU SURE HE IS OUR YOUNG MASTER?
SISTER WHITE SNAKE, PLEASE PUT ON THIS ROBE AND COME PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO THE YOUNG MASTER!

Dragon Seizing Claw
OR DOES HE? TWO INVISIBLE FORCES, MUCH LIKE TALONS, EMANATE FROM THE BLACK-CLAD MAN'S HANDS!
Using the two Skull Goblins as a springboard, the man in black shoots away like a cannonball!
We can't let them get away!
The Three Skull Goblins have never lost when fighting as a cohesive unit. They vow to challenge the mysterious men in black to another battle!
THEY HAVE A STRANGE BUT POWERFUL STYLE!
ARE YOU TWO HURT?
I'M FINE!

THE FORCE OF THE STRIKE CAN BE FELT DEEP IN THE GOBLIN'S CHEST.
AH!
The other black-clad figure also retreats from battle!
The Forged Bone Technique allows its practioners to recover quickly. The Blue and Green will join forces to attack!
HEY!
GECKO STYLE! IS IT YOU, MASTER?

Purple Skull Goblin barely has time enough to exercise his Forged Bone Technique!
THE MYSTERIOUS FIGHTER POSSESSES INCREDIBLE LIGHTFOOT SKILL.
WOW ...

傳人
Successor

THE BLACK-CLAD MAN ATTACKS STRAIGHT WITH A LEFT HOOK, WHILE HIS RIGHT HAND CLAWS DOWNWARDS, BOTH WITH INCREDIBLE SPEED AND PRECISION!
!唷
!呼

中華英雄

Chinese Hero

-Tales of the Blood Sword-

Chapter 14:

Successor

THE SKULL GOBLINS HAVE ALREADY DISCOVERED THE BREACH IN SECURITY. THEY HOPE TO USE THIS CHANCE TO KILL THE MARTIAL ARTISTS.
!哦
Three Skull Goblins
HIS GIANT BODY SEEMS LIGHT AS A FEATHER IN THE ARMS OF THE MAN IN BLACK. THE FIGURES FLY OUT OF THE PRISON CELL.
!呀
THE SKULL GOBLINS RUSH FORWARD WITH A ROAR!
The two in black split up. One grabs Sihai Yu and runs along the walls toward the exit. The other heads toward the Skull Goblins!

Another slam, and the giant lock holding the cell door closed breaks apart!
HIS USEFULNESS HAS ENDED!
THESE ARE THE PRISON CELLS...
The black-cloaked men grab a Death Gate member.
SIR, WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
FOLLOW US!
SIHAI YU, WE'VE COME TO SAVE YOU!
HOW POWERFUL!
WE'RE ONLY HERE TO SAVE YOU! WE DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYONE ELSE!
THESE ARE ALL MY FRIENDS. PLEASE RESCUE EVERYONE HERE!
JUST SHUT UP AND FOLLOW ME!
The black-cloaked figure subdues Sihai by striking his pressure points!
AH!
DAMN YOU!
THEN NO THANK YOU, I WILL STAY HERE WITH MY FRIENDS!

!哇
HE HAS NOT SUCCUMBED TO THE TECHNIQUE AND IS EVEN ABLE TO TURN THE TABLES AND STUN WHITE SCORPION!
White Scorpion is stunned, but still faces Meow-pao happily...
嗯!
Young Master!
!啊
White Scorpion's actions completely confuse Jian. Even White Snake is shocked! What happened to make White Scorpion think that Jian is the young master?

YES, I WILL ANSWER HONESTLY!
IT'S WHITE SCORPION! SHE'S USING AWESTRUCK SOUL TECHNIQUE.
CHILD, YOU WILL HONESTLY ANSWER MY QUEST-IONS!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
I FLEW HERE!
SISTER, NO NEED TO QUESTION HIM, JUST KILL HIM!
Flew here? Preposter-ous!!
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
White Scorpion approaches Jian to intensify her hold...
WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
咗
RAHGH!!
JIAN SUDDENLY ROARS!

HOW DARE YOU! I'LL KILL YOU!

JIAN TAKES WHITE SNAKE'S CLOTHES SO SHE CAN'T FOLLOW HIM INTO THE TUNNELS!

YOU'RE A SMART ONE... SO IF I CAN'T FIND IT, I'LL BE BACK!

SUDDENLY, JIAN IS PUSHED BACK!

White Snake sinks back into the bath with her face flush!

I'M STILL HERE. SO COME OUT AND KILL ME!

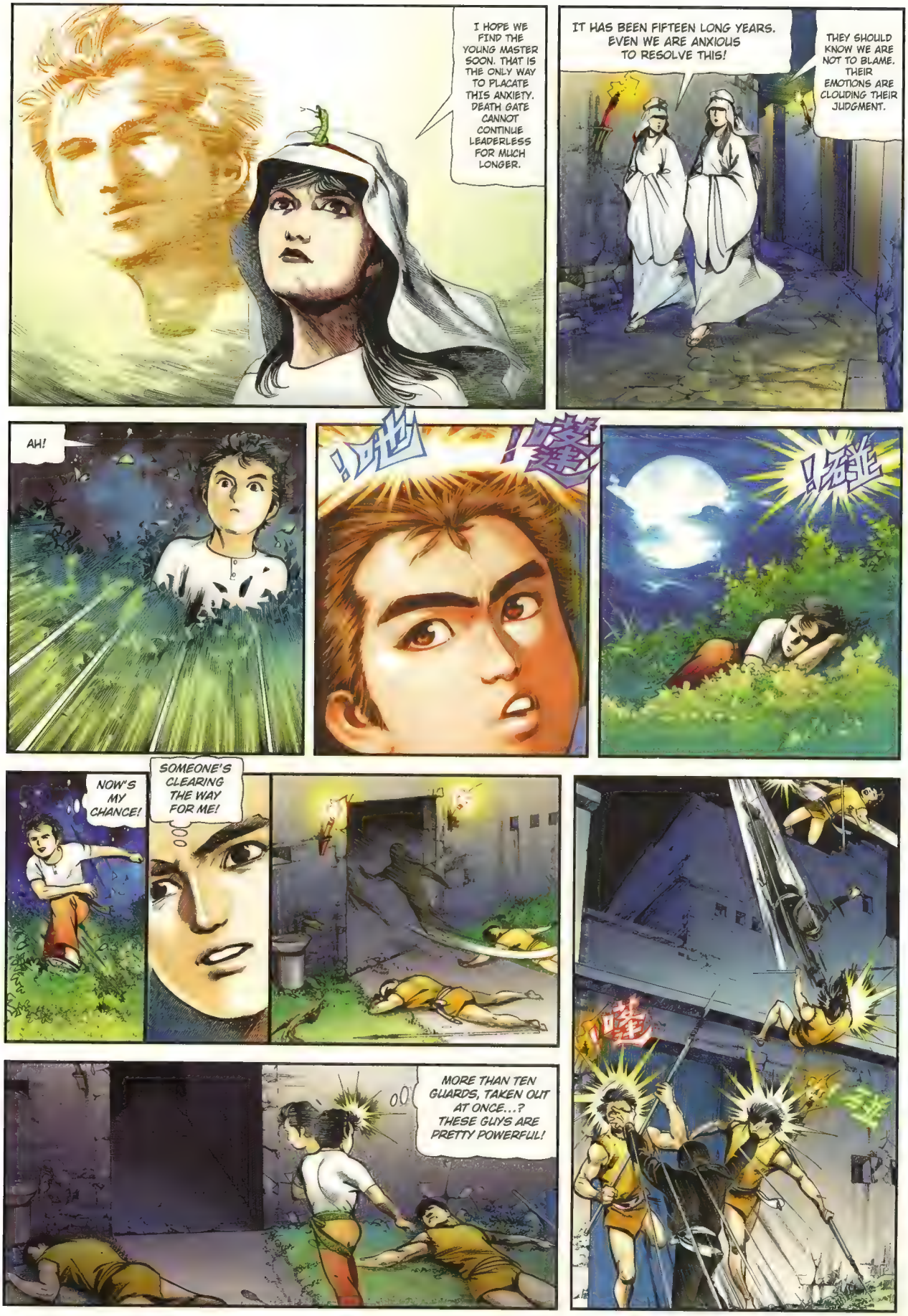
AS SOON AS HE LAYS EYES ON HIS OPPONENT, HIS HEAD BEGINS TO SPIN.

WHO'S THERE? A SNEAK ATTACK?

AH!
-But his reflexes are well honed.

AH!
HA HA! DON'T FORGET THAT YOU'RE NOT WEARING ANY CLOTHES!
WAH, YOU'RE SO RUDE!
Jian is fully prepared!
DON'T RUIN YOUR PRETTY FACE WITH WORRY. JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU KEEP THE PRISONERS AND I'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!
White Snake is full with shame and awkwardness.
THE MORE YOU EXPOSE, THE MORE DISGUSTED I FEEL. DON'T MAKE MY EYES SUFFER!
WHITE SNAKE HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED A BEAUTY. SHE HAS NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED. COVERING HER EARS, SHE DIVES INTO THE WATER.
THEN EVERYONE CAN SEE YOU BATHING, WOULD YOU LIKE THAT?
IF YOU DON'T TELL ME, THEN I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE, BUT TO CALL OUT AND MORE PEOPLE WILL COME...
YOU ...
TURN LEFT FROM THIS DOOR AND WALK ABOUT 10 YARDS. THE MIDDLE SECTION IS THE PASSAGE TOWARD THE PRISONS...
Jian's trick works!
OK! I'LL TELL YOU, LITTLE BRAT!
HEY EVERY-

The underground passages branch out, twisting and turning. Jian searches blindly through the numerous rooms.
ALL THE GUARDS HAVE BEEN KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS!
JIAN CAUTIOUSLY SNEAKS INTO THE TUNNELS, BUT NO ONE STOPS HIM.
HOW LUXURIOUSLY COMFORTABLE!
A BATH HOUSE.
THE GUARDS ARE DOWN HERE AS WELL! THOSE BLACK-CLOTHED ATTACKERS HAVE BEEN HERE ALREADY!
AFTER A WHILE, THE TUNNEL GROWS WIDER TO REVEAL A WELL LIT ROOM!
SHH! YOU DON'T WANT MORE PEOPLE TO COME IN AND LOOK AT YOU, DO YOU?
GET OUT!
YOU SEEM SO COMFORTABLE! I WANT TO TAKE A BATH, TOO!
HUH! IT'S YOU AGAIN?!
JIAN!
White Snake uses her chi to heat the water and splashes it towards Jian...


I HOPE WE FIND THE YOUNG MASTER SOON. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO PLACATE THIS ANXIETY. DEATH GATE CANNOT CONTINUE LEADERLESS FOR MUCH LONGER.
IT HAS BEEN FIFTEEN LONG YEARS. EVEN WE ARE ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE THIS!
THEY SHOULD KNOW WE ARE NOT TO BLAME. THEIR EMOTIONS ARE CLOUDING THEIR JUDGMENT.
AH!
唰!
唰!
唰!
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
SOMEONE'S CLEARING THE WAY FOR ME!
嚓!
MORE THAN TEN GUARDS, TAKEN OUT AT ONCE...? THESE GUYS ARE PRETTY POWERFUL!

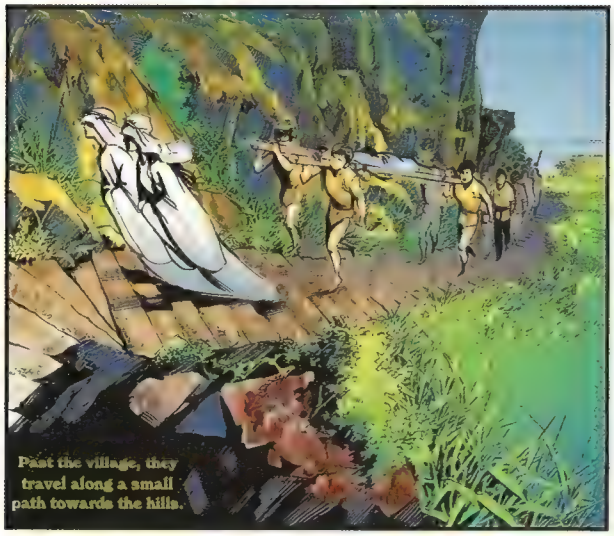
DEMONESS! WHY HAVE YOU IMPRISONED US?
AH!
NO, OF COURSE NOT! OUR OPINIONS ARE BASED ON THE SITUATION, NOT TOWARD YOU PERSONALLY!
ARE YOU QUESTIONING ME?
ELDER, IT'S DANGEROUS TO LEAVE THESE PRISONERS ALIVE! WHY DON'T WE JUST KILL THEM ALL AND CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS ON FINDING THE YOUNG MASTER?!
THEIR SKILL AND INTELLIGENCE IS UNQUESTIONABLE. BUT STILL THEY ARE WOMEN, AND CANNOT BE COUNTED UPON TO SHOW STRENGTH!
THE ELDERS LEAVE WITHOUT A SINGLE WORD...
WE HAVE THE SAME GOALS AS THE ELDERS, TO FIND YOUNG MASTER! YOU SHOULD ALLOW US TO USE ANY MEANS TO ACHIEVE THAT END!

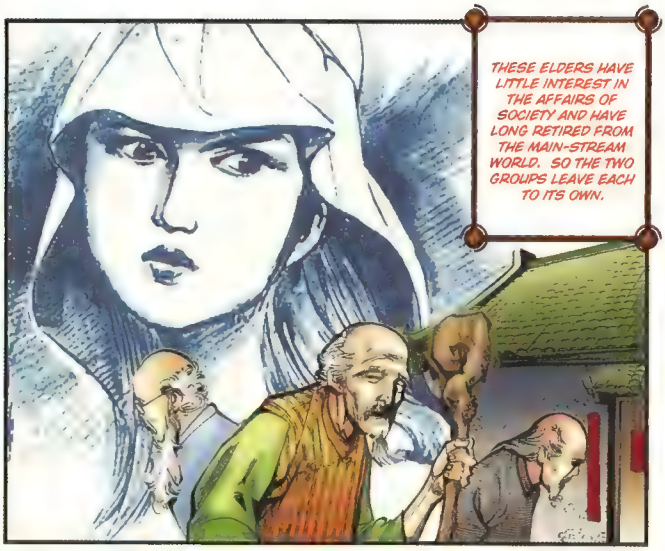
USE TORTURE IF NEED BE!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE HAVE TO MAKE HIM TELL US YOUNG MASTER'S WHEREABOUTS!
ELDER, WAKE HIM WITH COLD WATER, QUESTION HIM AGAIN!
HE HAS NOT YET REVEALED THE MASTER'S WHEREABOUTS. HE FAINTED!
WHEN HE AWAKES, WE WILL QUESTION HIM AGAIN, WE BELIEVE HE HAS NEWS!
IF THAT IS THE CASE, PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION ELDER!
ARE YOU PITYING SHENG NU FOR HIS OLD AGE, YOU DON'T WANT TO TREAT HIM CRUELLY?
I WAS PLANNING TO TORTURE HIM, BUT... THE ELDER OPPOSED ME! I WASN'T SURE WHY...
WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING!
FINDING YOUNG MASTER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR DEATH GATE, WE MUST USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY!
AH!
EMOTIONS RUN HIGH IN PURSUIT OF THEIR MASTER. BUT THE ELDERS HAVE SPOKEN AND QUICKLY TURN TO LEAVE.
YA!
WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL LISTEN TO OUR GOOD ADVICE, AND FIND YOUNG MASTER SOON!

A VAGUE OUTLINE OF JIAN BEGINS TO FORM IN WHITE SCORPION'S MIND...
HER AWESTRUCK SOUL TECHNIQUE HAS ALREADY REACHED ITS PRIME POTENCY.
THIS IS A MUCH EASIER WAY TO QUESTION PRISONERS!
WHITE SCORPION ALMOST FAINTS.
!
WHAT HAPPENED?
SUDDENLY A BLINDING LIGHT SHOOTS FORTH! WHITE SCORPION'S MIND IS BLINDED BY THE BRIGHT IMAGE...
AHH!
SO HE'S NOT DEAD, THANK GOD!
THE IMAGE WITHIN MY MIND IS FILLED WITH YANG ENERGY LIKE A BRIGHT SUN! HE MUST BE YOUNG MASTER!
WE WILL WAIT TO QUESTION HIM FURTHER. LET HIM REST AWHILE!
Sheng Nu has passed out from the ordeal!
GOOD!
After fifteen years of fruitless searching, this news boosts everyone's spirits.
ELDERS, DID YOU FIND NEWS OF THE YOUNG MASTER?
AS THE GROUP EXITS THE PRISON CHAMBER...
THE DAY'S EVENTS HAVE TAKEN THEIR TOLL. EVEN DEATH GATE RETIRES TO RECOUP.

HOLD IT!
AH!
YOU ARE ALL EVIL! I WILL NEVER LET DEATH GATE HAVE JIAN!
FIRST WE'LL CUT OFF YOUR EARS!
AWE-STRUCK SOUL TECH-NIQUE
SHENG NU IS STUNNED!
He suddenly feels his head aplasing!
SHENG NU LIFTS HIS HEAD, AND MEETS WHITE SCORPION'S EYES...
YOU ARE THINKING OF JIAN... YOU ARE RECALLING HIS FEATURES!

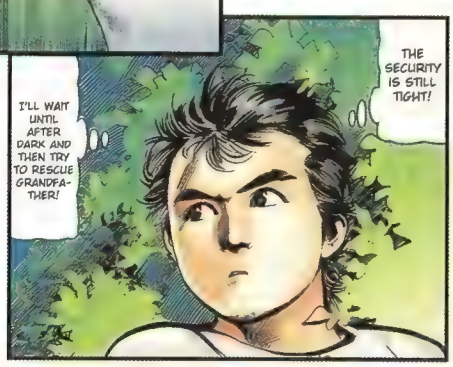
WHERE IS JIAN XIONG HUA? SPEAK!
I... DON'T... KNOW...
啪
JIAN DIED OF DISEASE WHEN HE WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD!
WE WILL FIND HIM AND IMMEDIATELY LET YOU GO!
IF YOU TELL US HIS WHERE-ABOUTS...
PURPLE SKULL GOBLIN PLANS TO CUT THE MEAT FROM YOUR BODY ONE SLICE AT A TIME. ITS EXTREMELY PAINFUL AND GRUESOME!
HEE HEE HEE! LET ME AT HIM. I'LL MAKE HIM TALK!
SHENG NU STRUGGLES VIOLENTLY, BUT HE IS STILL WEAK AND HAS NO STRENGTH.
唰!

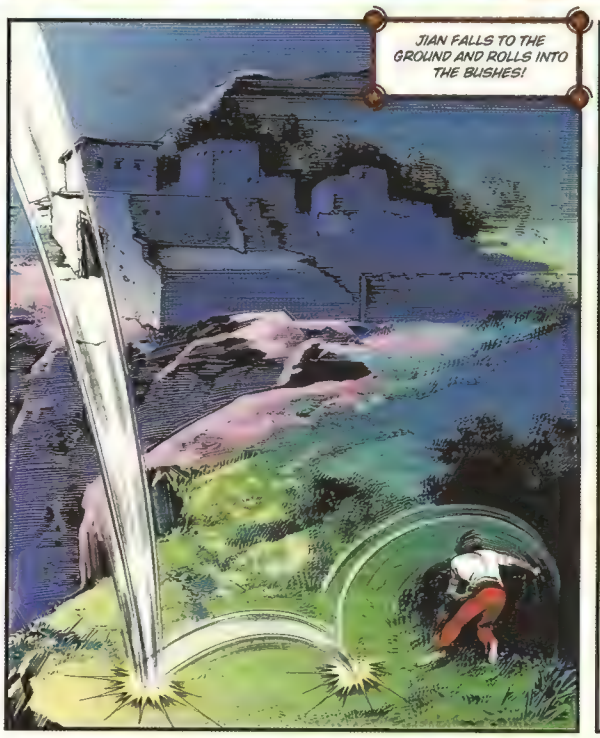

Past the village, they travel along a small path towards the hills.


THESE ELDERS HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN THE AFFAIRS OF SOCIETY AND HAVE LONG RETIRED FROM THE MAIN-STREAM WORLD. SO THE TWO GROUPS LEAVE EACH TO ITS OWN.

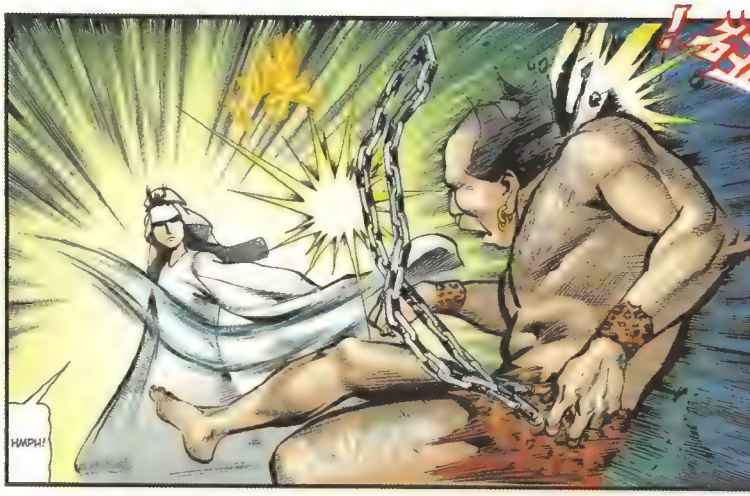
WHY DID THEY TAKE GRANDFATHER HERE?

THE ELDERS ARE BACK!
At the top of the hill is an abandoned citadel, the base for Death Gate's operations.
They have been here for the past fifteen years, and had made the citadel into a foggy, sinister environment, much like their

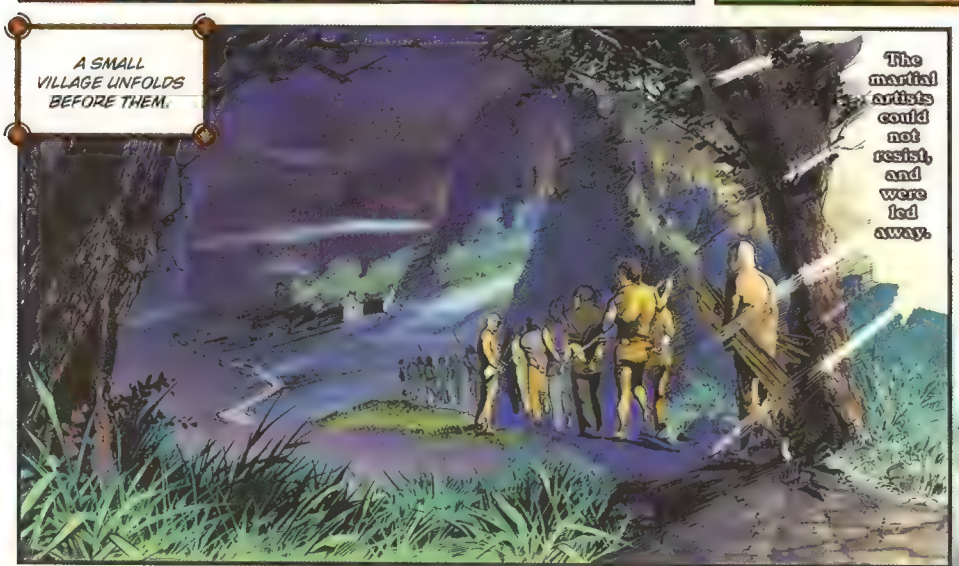

I'LL WAIT UNTIL AFTER DARK AND THEN TRY TO RESCUE GRANDFATHER!
THE SECURITY IS STILL TIGHT!

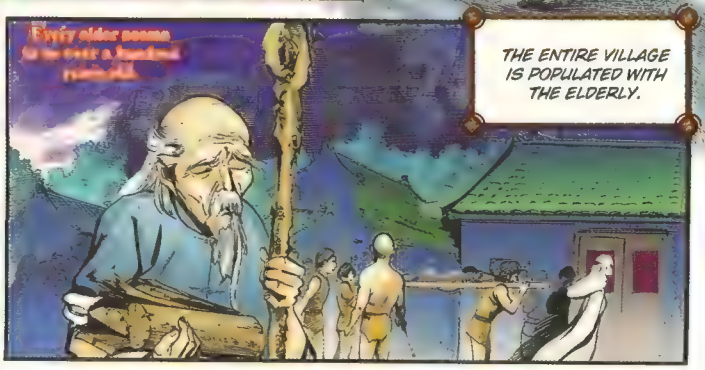

JIAN FALLS TO THE GROUND AND ROLLS INTO THE BUSHES!

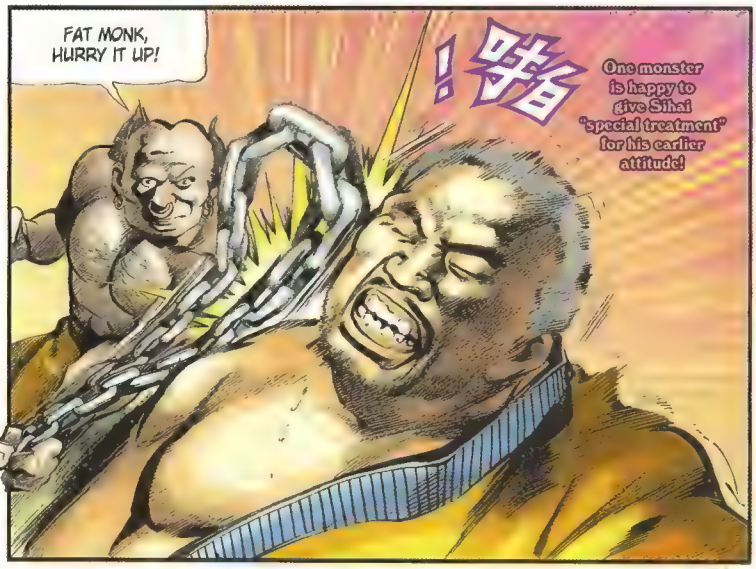
Jian is tired from the chase, and takes this chance to get a good night's rest.

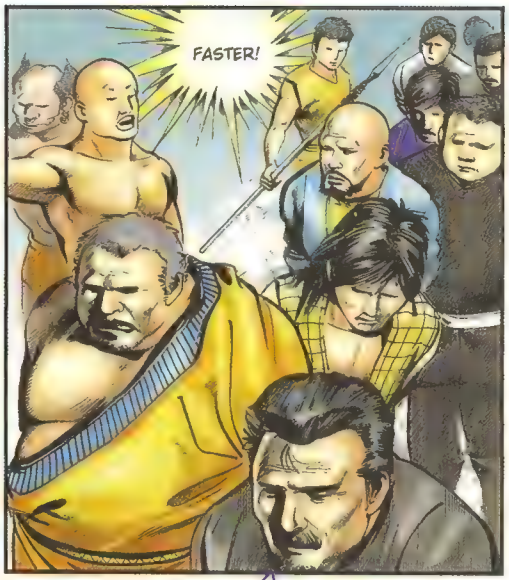


White Scorpion is a talented martial artist She recognizes the same skill in Sihai Yu and respects his right to his honor and dignity.

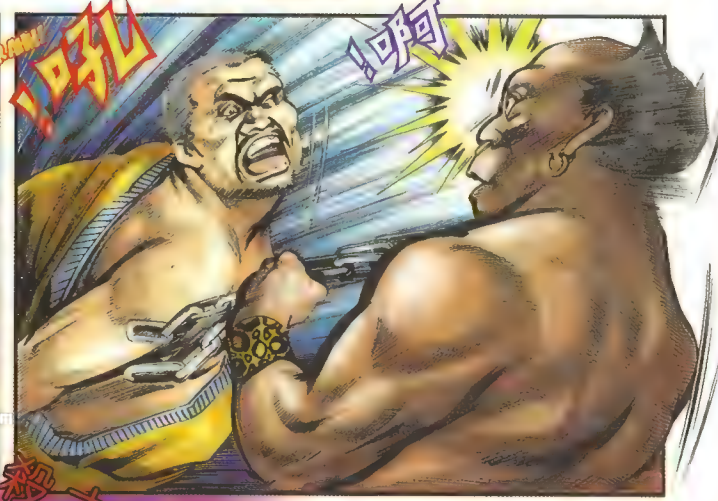





FAT MONK, HURRY IT UP!
!呔
One monster is happy to give Sihai "special treatment" for his earlier attitude!


FASTER!

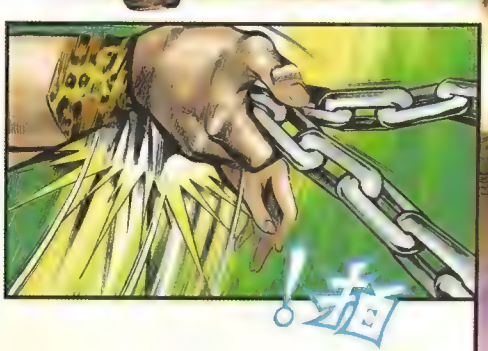
WHAT?


RAWR!
!吼
!啊

SOON YOU'LL WISH I HAD. BUT NOT BEFORE YOU SUFFER.

How dare you mock me! You'll kill him already!
杀了我吧！不可饶恕！

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'VE BEEN DRUGGED. HEHE! I LIKE YOU WEAK AND OBEDIENT!
HUH?


!拍

PULL THE TROOPS BACK!
ELDER, WE CAN NOT FIND ANY TRACE OF THE CHILD.
LET'S GO!
Concerned about possible reinforcements, Snake shouts...
THE NAVY TROOP SWIMS ALONG WITH THE SHIP IN CASE OF MORE SNEAK ATTACKS BY JIAN.
SHENG NU HAS BEEN HEAVILY SEDATED. HE IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS.
Upon arrival, the prisoners are dragged onto the island.
Next morning, Nameless Island

Take him!
殺話，拿起他
I ASKED FIRST, YOU SHOULD ANSWER FIRST!
WHEN DID YOU GET ABOARD?
WHO ARE YOU, LITTLE PUNK?
MIDWAY THROUGH THE KICK, BLUE SKULL GOBLIN HAS ALREADY COME FORWARD TO PROTECT THE ELDER.
啪!
啊!
HMPH!
SEE YA!
噗!
Jian knew this would happen, and uses the Skull Goblin's force to vault backwards.
THE GHOST NAVY TROOP SEAMEN JUMP INTO THE OCEAN TO CAPTURE JIAN.
通
通
DON'T LET HIM LEAVE!

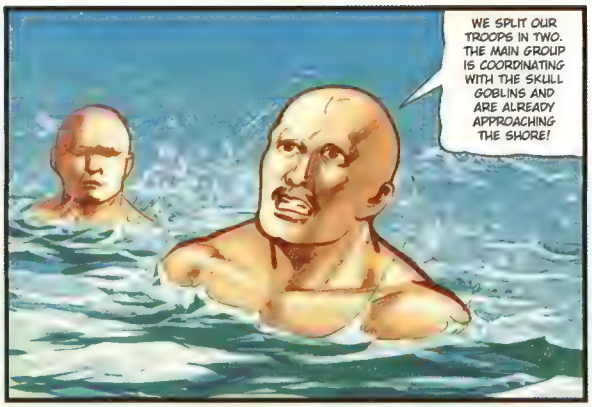
WHO'S THERE?
I DON'T THINK THEY WILL HURT GRANDFATHER RIGHT NOW. I'LL ESCAPE AND COME BACK FOR HIM LATER.
GET HIM!
THEIR SECURITY IS TIGHT. IT'S GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO RESCUE GRANDFATHER.
JIAN'S CALL CONTAINS TREMENDOUS AUTHORITY AND POWER. HIS CAPTORS ACTUALLY HALT.
HUH?
IT'S HIM AGAIN!
THEY ACTUALLY STOPPED, HOW STUPID!
YOU TWO MUST BE THE LEADERS OF THIS OUTFIT. WHY'D YOU KIDNAP PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGE? WHAT'RE YOU UP TO?
YES, IN THE VILLAGE!
YOU'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE?

I HOPE YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM!
AH!
!嗚
Jian cautiously approaches the cabin.
AH, A GHOST!
HEY, IT'S ME!
呵阿
THOSE THREE ARE THEIR MOST POWERFUL MARTIAL ARTISTS, SO THEY MUST BE GUARDING SOMETHING IMPORTANT. BUT WHY DID THEY TAKE GRANDFATHER?
A SPY!
YA!

MIDWAY DOWN, HE GRABS A WOODEN RAILING.
HE MISSES, AND FALLS!
Jiao is planning to catch the rain and slowly climb down.
YA!
LATER!
HEY, HOW'S IT GOING?
HUH?
I FELL FROM THE SKY, DIDN'T YOU SEE IT?
YOU, HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

IF WE START A GRUDGE WITH THE MAINLAND MARTIAL ARTISTS, THE YOUNG MASTER WILL HAVE TO TAKE THE BLAME. WE CANNOT AFFORD THAT NOW.
THEY ARE ALL FAMOUS MARTIAL ARTISTS, SO IF WE KILL THEM WE WILL INCUR THE WRATH OF THE OTHER MAINLANDERS. THEN THEY WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO DESTROY US.
ELDER, WHY DON'T WE KILL THEM! LET THE MAINLANDERS KNOW THAT THE DEATH GATE IS NO PUSHOVER!
LET'S GO!
YES!
TAKE THEM BACK TO NAME-LESS ISLAND. WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH THEM LATER!
HERE'S THE BOAT!
SILVER HAWK, BE READY TO COME GET ME!
SILVER HAWK IS A RARE CREATURE. HIS SEEMINGLY SMALL BODY BELIES HIS IMMENSE STRENGTH, SO HE CAN EASILY CARRY JIAN ACROSS THE SKY.
TAKE ME CLOSER SO I CAN JUMP DOWN.

White Snake is clearly very fearful of water.
VERY GOOD. NOW HELP US GET ABOARD THE SHIP!

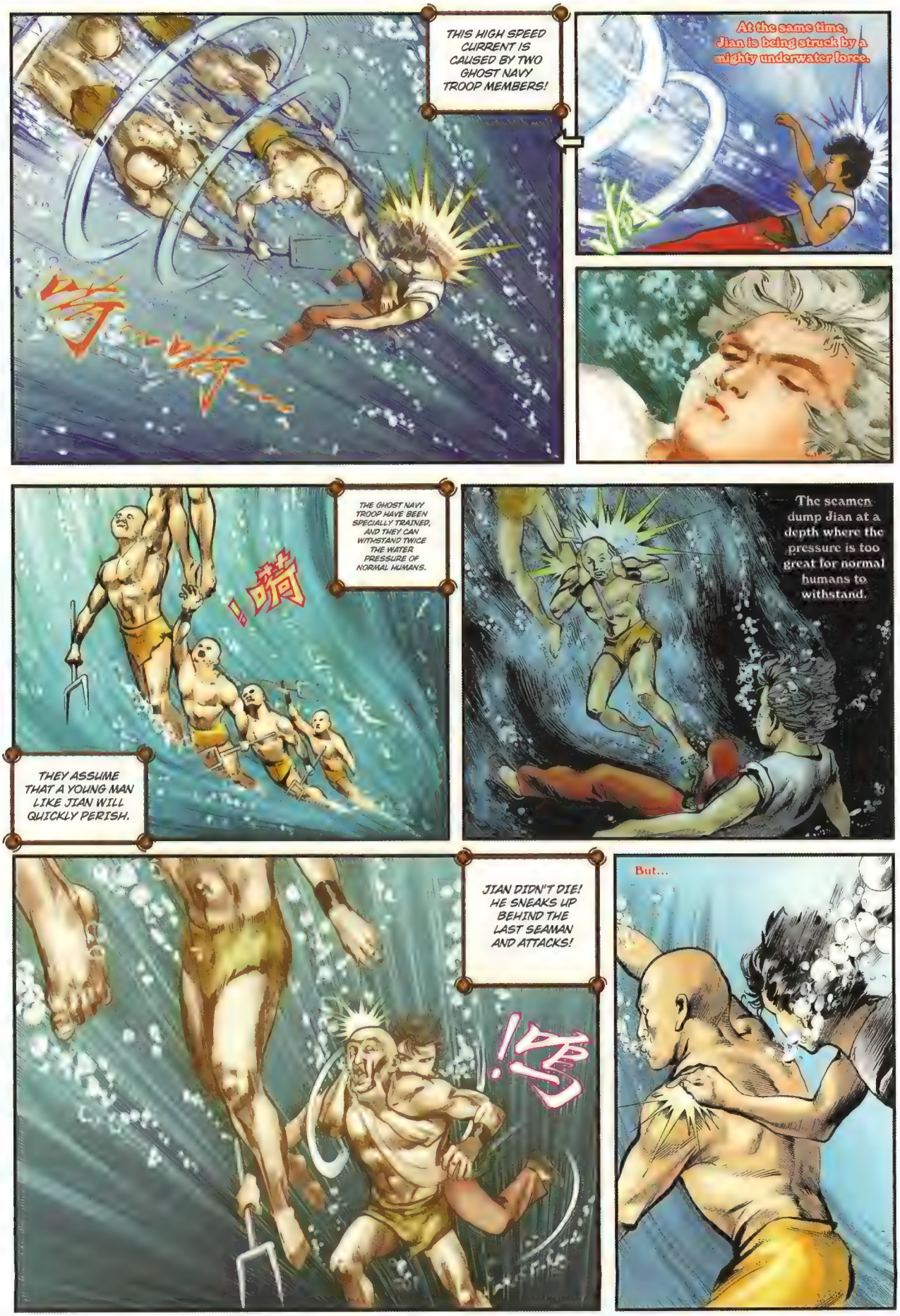

WE SPLIT OUR TROOPS IN TWO. THE MAIN GROUP IS COORDINATING WITH THE SKULL GOBLINS AND ARE ALREADY APPROACHING THE SHORE!

THE GHOST NAVY TROOP PUSHES THE RAFT TOWARDS A BOAT WAITING FARTHER OUT AT SEA.
TO AVOID CAUSING TOO MUCH TROUBLE, DEATH GATE USES THIS BOAT TO CARRY TEN OF ITS TROOP MEMBERS TO THE SMALL FISHING VILLAGE.

THEY ARE CARRIED ABOARD, BOUND AND TIED.
HMMPH! YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO PUSH US OUT, BUT YOU UNDERESTIMATED OUR STRENGTH!

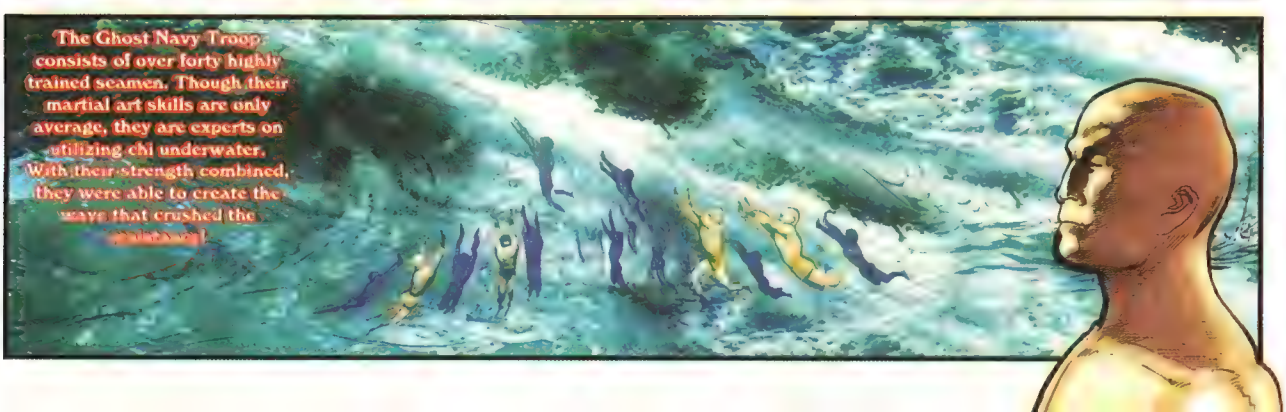
Next the Ghost Navy Troop gathers the prisoners.

THE WEAKENED SEAMAN IS DRAGGED AWAY BY JIAN TOWARDS THE DEPTHS.
LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE THE DEEP SEAS!
THE SEAMAN BEGINS STRUGGLING, BUT HIS STRENGTH SOON WANES.
NOW YOU KNOW HOW GOOD I REALLY AM!
As they plunge deeper and deeper, the seaman finally passes out.
NOT ONLY IS HE AN EXCELLENT SWIMMER, BUT SHENG NU HAS BEEN SOAKING HIS BODY WITH MEDICINAL HERBS HIS WHOLE LIFE. HIS RESISTANCE TO ADVERSE CONDITIONS IS PRACTICALLY SUPERHUMAN!
JIAN TAKES THE SEAMAN EVEN DEEPER THAN THEY HAD TAKEN HIM.
IT'S JUST A YOUNG BOY, WE HAVE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF HIM!
WHO ATTACKED US FROM UNDER-WATER?
LUCKILY YOU ARRIVED IN TIME!
WE ARE SORRY YOUR VOYAGE WAS DISTURBED BY THE YOUNG BOY!
JIAN DOES NOT WANT TO KILL THE SEAMAN AND DRAGS HIM ASHORE!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
OH ...
White Scorpion seems slightly concerned.
THE REST OF THE SEAMAN DID NOT NOTICE A MEMBER MISSING AND PROMPTLY WENT ABOVE WATER TO REPORT TO THE ELDERS.


THIS HIGH SPEED CURRENT IS CAUSED BY TWO GHOST NAVY TROOP MEMBERS!
At the same time, Jian is being struck by a mighty underwater force.
THE GHOST NAVY TROOP HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY TRAINED, AND THEY CAN WITHSTAND TWICE THE WATER PRESSURE OF NORMAL HUMANS.
THEY ASSUME THAT A YOUNG MAN LIKE JIAN WILL QUICKLY PERISH.
The seamen dump Jian at a depth where the pressure is too great for normal humans to withstand.
JIAN DIDN'T DIE! HE SNEAKS UP BEHIND THE LAST SEAMAN AND ATTACKS!
But...

ANY OF THE GATHERED MARTIAL ARTISTS THAT WERE NOT CRUSHED OR INCAPACITATED BY THE WAVE WERE QUICKLY FINISHED OFF IN THE ENSUING CONFUSION. SOON OVER THIRTY MEN EMERGE FROM THE OCEAN WATERS...

The ones that caused the wave are Death Gates' Ghost Navy Troop.
YES SIR!
TAKE THEM TO THE BOAT AND AWAIT THE ELDERS' ORDERS!


The Ghost Navy Troop consists of over forty highly trained seamen. Though their martial art skills are only average, they are experts on utilizing chi underwater. With their strength combined, they were able to create the wave that crushed the

GHOST SHADOW'S EXCEPTIONAL LIGHTFOOT SKILL HELPS HIM AVOID BEING CRUSHED BY THE WAVE.
SIHAI YU WAS ONLY CONCERNED WITH RUNNING AWAY, AND DID NOT EXPECT A SURPRISE ATTACK BY THE SKULL GOBLINS. LIGHTNING QUICK, THEY ATTACK HIS MAJOR PRESSURE POINTS, IMMOBILIZING HIM.
THIS DELAYS GHOST SHADOW LONG ENOUGH FOR THE WAVE TO REACH HIM!
嘖!
In the swirling waters, a hand reaches out grabbing his ankle.
AH!
啃!
A sneak attack!
吐!
At the same time, Purple Skull Goblin and another person shoot up from beneath the waves!
啃!

Nameless Island

中華英雄
Chinese Hero

-Tales of the Blood Sword-

Chapter 13:

Nameless Island

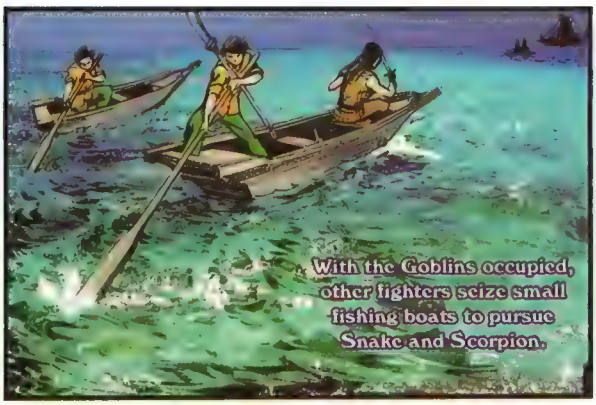
GHOST SHADOW GRABS ONE FIGHTER WITH HIS RIGHT HAND AND SWINGS OUT HIS SILK CABLE WITH THE OTHER HAND.
I'VE GOT YOU!
A gigantic wave roars towards the fighters, threatening to swallow the whole coast in one gulp.
YET BEFORE ANYONE CAN BREATH A SIGH OF RELIEF...
!ROAR
There is nowhere to run...

Even stranger, only the water close to shore seems affected.
嘀嘀

AS THE SKULL DEMONS DIVE BELOW, THE ONCE CALM OCEAN WATERS BEGIN CHURNING.

DANGER!
GHOST SHADOW SENSES AS MUCH AND CHARGES TOWARDS THE OCEAN.

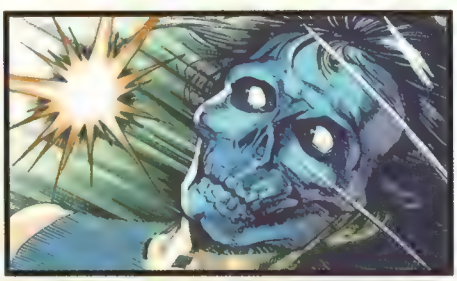
ASTON-ISHING! THESE WATERS HAVE GROWN INCREDIBLY VIOLENT. THERE IS NO WAY THIS CAN BE A NATURAL PHENOM-ENON.

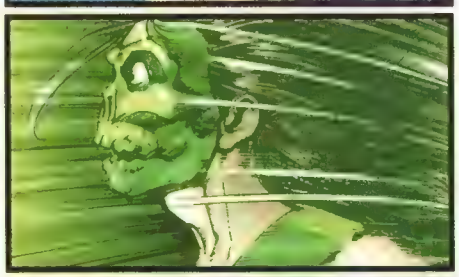

With the Goblins occupied, other fighters seize small fishing boats to pursue Snake and Scorpion.

EVEN COMBINED, THE FIGHTERS ARE STILL NOT ASSURED OF A VICTORY. THE MARTIAL ARTISTS ARE IN AWE OF THE SKULL GOBLINS SKILLS.

AH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
JUST TEN YARDS INTO THE SEA, A WHIRLPOOL APPEARS.

AH!
DON'T RUN!
YA!

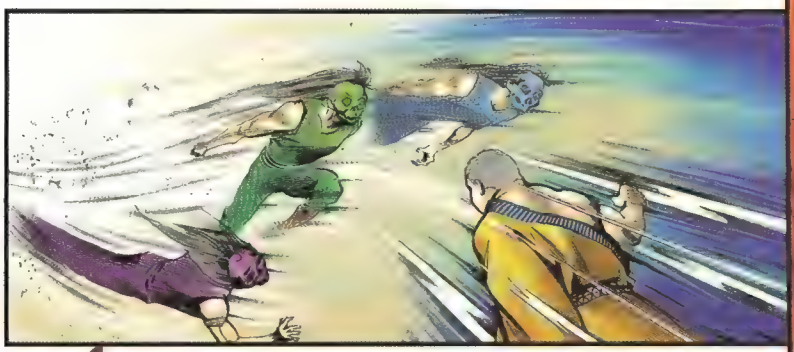




THE DARK CURRENT KNOCKS JIAN ASIDE!
HE'S BEING DRAGGED UNDER, TOWARDS THE DEEPER DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN.
WHAT IS THIS STRANGE FORCE?
The Goblins are powerful, but grossly outnumbered.
It's not befitting of his reputation to join in a mass attack, so Sihai Yu stands aside to watch.

Confused, the restinvestigate beneath the surface.
WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY'RE PRETTY GOOD AT MARTIAL ARTS, BUT LET'S SEE HOW THEY FIGHT UNDERWATER.
JIAN CAN HOLD HIS BREATH FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
JUST THEN, A DARK SHAPE DARTS TOWARDS JIAN.
HA, THEY'RE AFRAID OF THE WATER.
WAH!
WAH! WHAT'S THAT?
THE RAFT BEGINS TO TEETER. THE NORMALLY CALM AND COMPOSED SNAKE AND SCORPION ELDERS SUDDENLY SEEM FEARFUL.

!拍
!拍
!呼
!噗
!噗
!呀
THOSE DEMONESSES CAPTURED A VILLAGER AND ARE TAKING HIM OUT TO SEA. WE HAVE TO GET THEM!
BROTHER YU, ARE YOU OKAY?

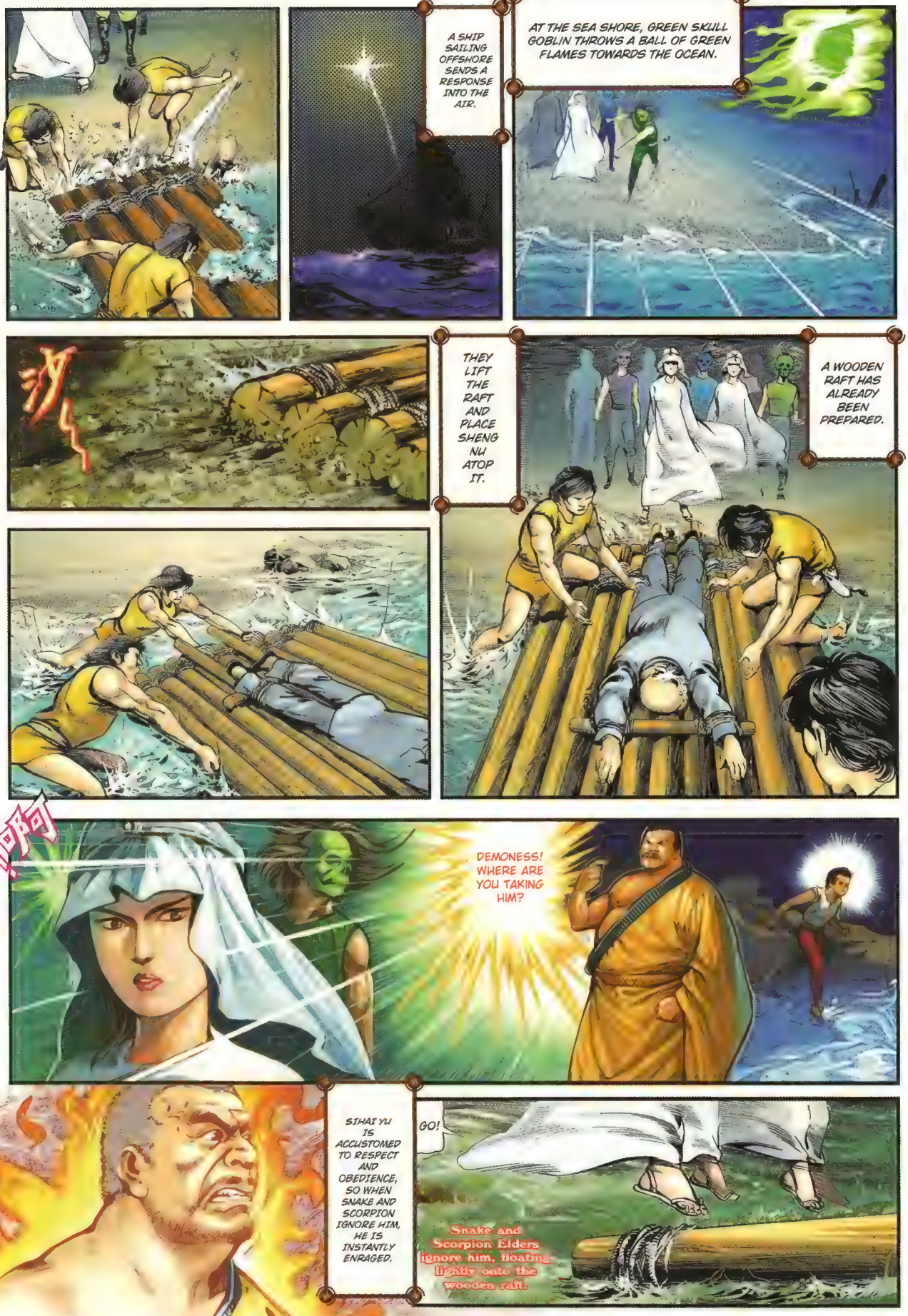


嘿
Dragon Seizing Claw
爪龍擒

吸
HE CAN'T JUST WATCH THEM TAKE SHENG NU AFTER HIS PROMISE.

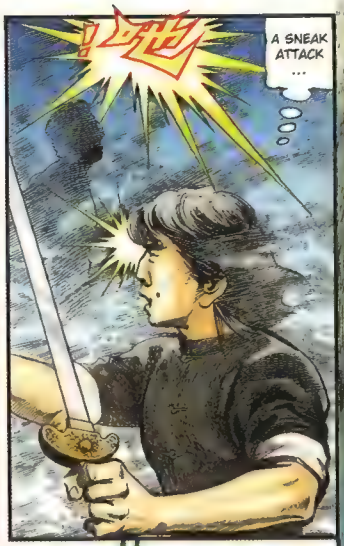
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
AH!

The Skull Goblins do not realize this uncouth monk is one of the top fighters in the world. Each is struck squarely by the Dragon Claws.
喀!
OH!
Luckily their Forged Bone Technique prevents any serious injury.

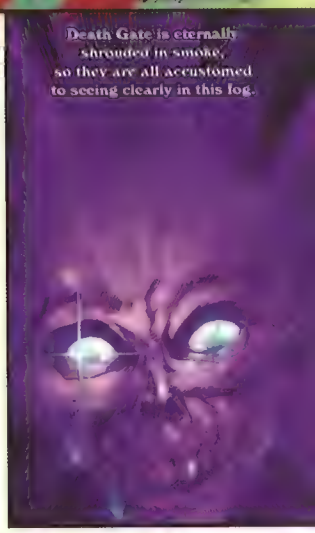

A SHIP SAILING OFFSHORE SENDS A RESPONSE INTO THE AIR.
AT THE SEA SHORE, GREEN SKULL GOBLIN THROWS A BALL OF GREEN FLAMES TOWARDS THE OCEAN.
THEY LIFT THE RAFT AND PLACE SHENG NU ATOP IT.
A WOODEN RAFT HAS ALREADY BEEN PREPARED.
DEMONESS! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HIM?
SIHAI YU IS ACCUSTOMED TO RESPECT AND OBEDIENCE, SO WHEN SNAKE AND SCORPION IGNORE HIM, HE IS INSTANTLY ENRAGED.
GO!
Snake and Scorpion Elders ignore him, floating lightly onto the wooden raft.

The martial artists decided to meet as a group, and all felt that this threat must be dealt with at once.
But due to the secrecy of their clan, the martial artists were always wary of their activities. They feared that Death Gate had some plot brewing.
Fifteen years ago, when Death Gate first came to the mainland, they had always avoided the mainland martial artists.
...
THE FIGHTERS STAND AWKWARDLY BACK TO BACK.
Thirty top fighters were chosen to rid the land of these evildoers.
AFTER THE FOG LIFTS, MANY MARTIAL ARTISTS ARE FOUND INJURED BUT NOT KILLED. DEATH GATE HAS SHOWN MERCY.
THE FAMED NO SHADOW SCHOOL LIGHTFOOT SKILL!
GHOST SHADOW RUNS THROUGH THE CROWD, DISPERSING THE SMOKE.
WHA...!
The Death Gate members have taken this chance to escape.
AH!

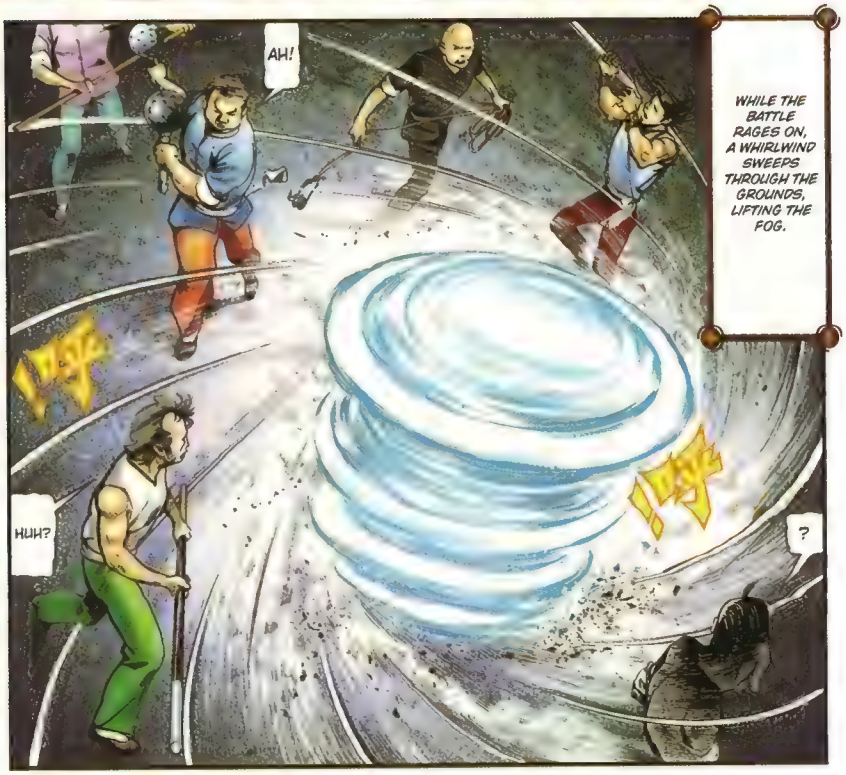
He waves his sword in a circle of protection.


A SNEAK ATTACK ...

FOLLOW ME IF YOU WANT TO KNOW!
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?


Death Gate is eternally shrouded in smoke, so they are all accustomed to seeing clearly in this fog.

WATCH OUT FOR SURPRISE ATTACKS, STAND BACK TO BACK!


AH!
WHILE THE BATTLE RAGES ON, A WHIRLWIND SWEEPS THROUGH THE GROUNDS, LIFTING THE FOG.
HUH?
?

THE DEATH GATE MEMBERS ARE RETREATING FROM THE LARGER GROUP OF ATTACKERS.
REALLY? THEN IT'S A PROMISE!
HA, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT KID. I'LL HELP YOU JUST THIS ONCE!
Release the poison smoke!
The Skull Goblins quickly spread the smoke throughout the battlefield.
THIS IS A SPECIAL FOG DESIGNED BY DEATH GATE. IT SEVERELY INHIBITS ONE'S VISION.
A HEAVY FOG INSTANTLY SHROUDS THE ENTIRE VILLAGE.

WHEN THINGS ARE SERIOUS, THEN I'LL STEP IN AND HELP. I CAN THEN SHOW MY SUPERIOR SKILLS.
YOU'RE NOT SCARED? THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT AND HELP YOUR FRIENDS?
HA! I'M NOT SCARED OF THEIR PITIFUL TECHNIQUES!
ARE YOU AFRAID OF THEM THEN?
YOU MUST WANT ME TO HELP FOR SOME REASON...
NICE TRY, KID, BUT THAT WON'T WORK!
THERE'S ALWAYS A REASON, WHEN YOU'RE SCARED!
I CAN TELL FROM YOUR EYES AND YOUR MANNERISM, DEATH GATE'S CAPTIVE MUST BE SOMEONE YOU KNOW. YOU WANT ME TO RESCUE HIM, DON'T YOU?
BUT THEY HAVE A LOT OF POWERFUL FIGHTERS; I DON'T THINK YOU CAN DO IT.
IF I'M RIGHT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK...
SMARTY PANTS!
IF YOU KOWTOW TO ME ONCE, THEN I WILL SAVE HIM FOR YOU!
THEN PLEASE, HELP ME SIR!
KID, MY GECKO SEIZING DRAGON TECHNIQUES ARE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE LAND. IF I CAN'T RESCUE HIM, THEN I WILL KOWTOW TO YOU TEN TIMES!

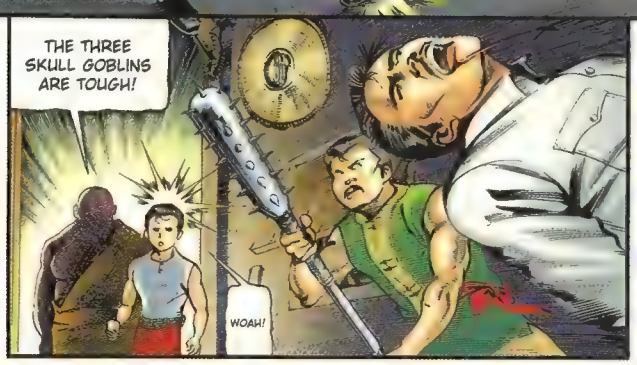
呼

楊家槍
Yang Clan Spear
颯

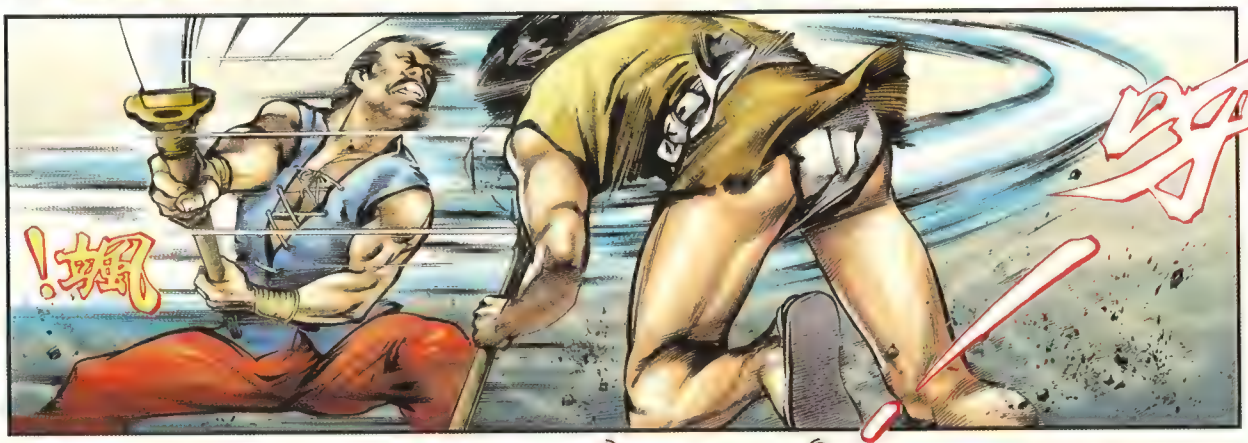
THE MARTIAL ARTISTS ARE AWARE HOW TOUGH THE SKULL GOBLINS ARE, SO THEY ALL COME FORWARD TO STOP THEM.
呀!

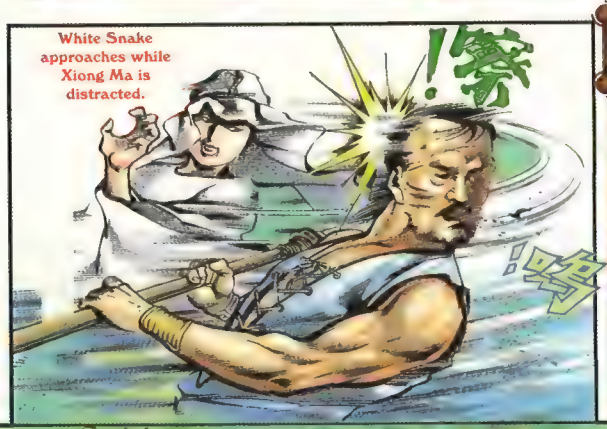
WAH!

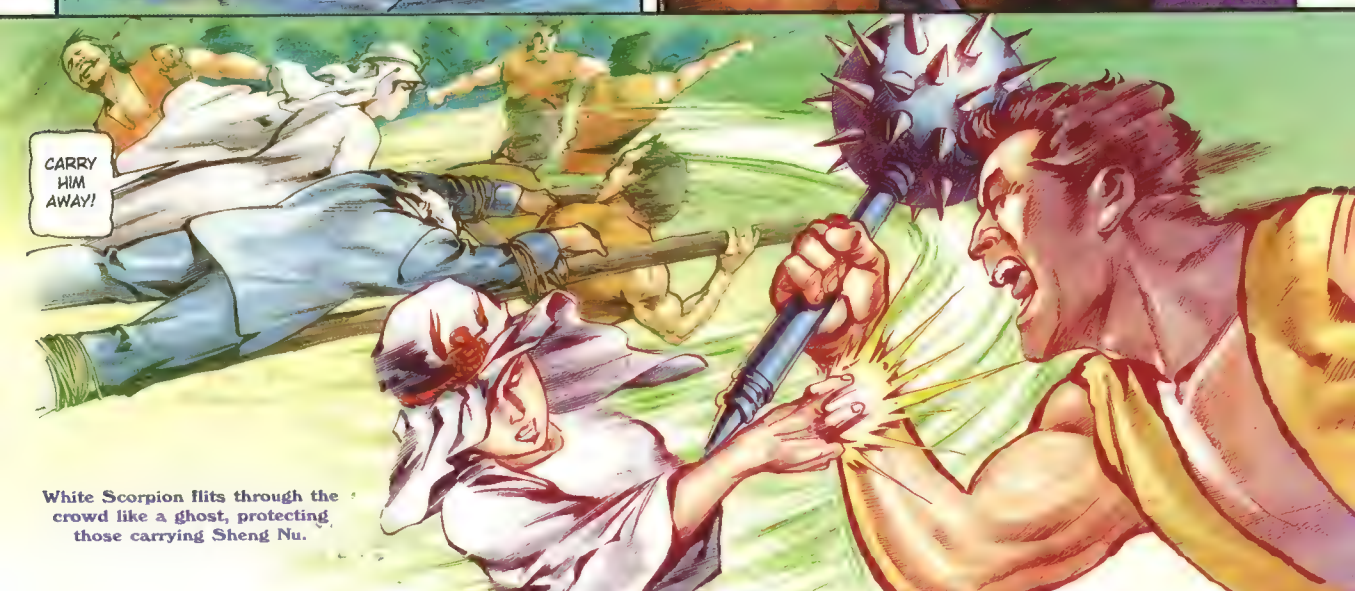
THROAT BREAK TECHNIQUE.
喉!


THE THREE SKULL GOBLINS ARE TOUGH!
WOAH!

殺!







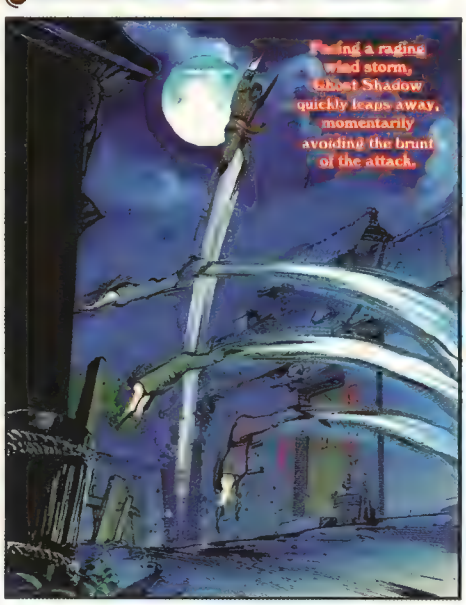
White Scorpion flits through the crowd like a ghost, protecting those carrying Sheng Nu.

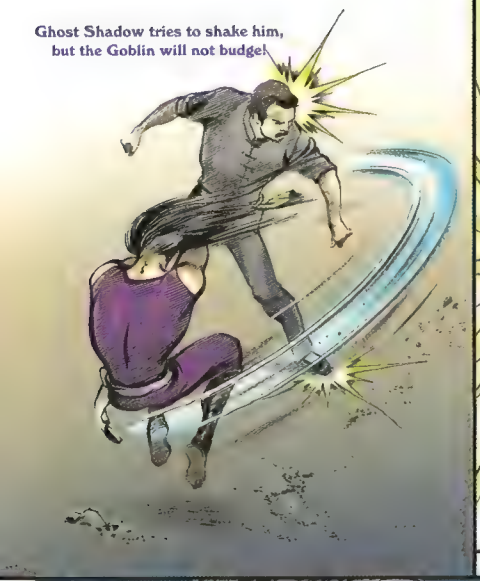
The area is flooded with skilled fighters, all responding to Ghost Shadow's signal.

The Goblins are actually three brothers. They have extraordinary bone structures and have been practicing the most powerful of Death Gate's skills:

Forged Bone Technique

鍛骨功



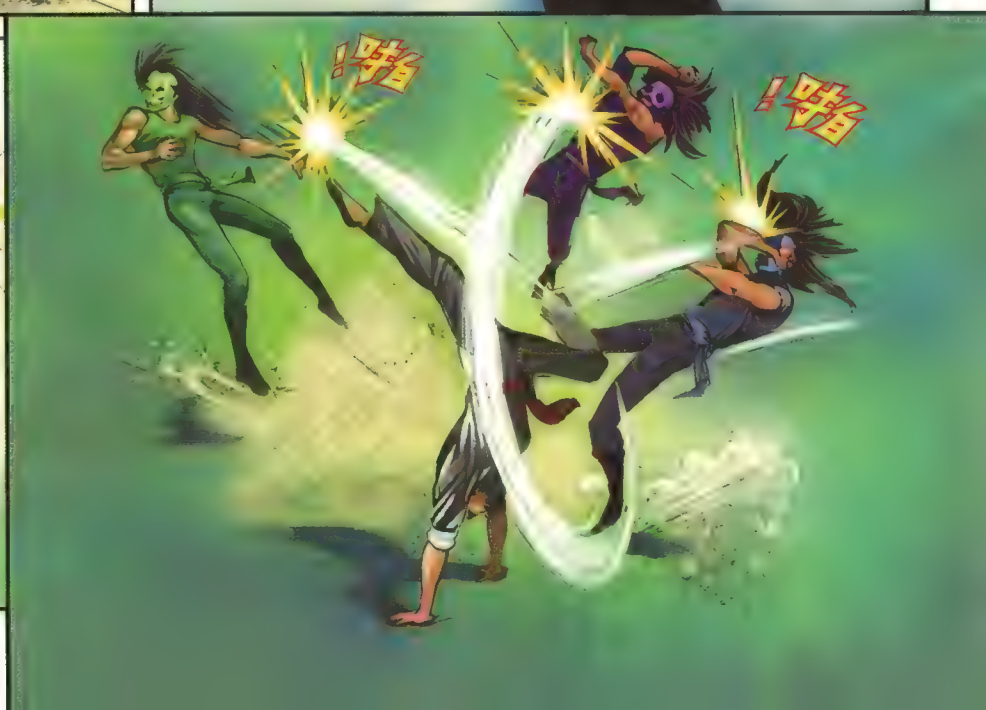

Ghost Shadow tries to shake him, but the Goblin will not budge!

ドン!

WHAT ?!
As Ghost Shadow strikes Purple Skull, the Goblin is able to absorb the blow and trap his attacker's foot between his lower ribs and pelvis.

ドス!

The Three Skull Goblins are very powerful when attacking together.


ドガ!
ドガ!

AH!
THE THREE SKULL GOBLINS DASH FORWARD LIKE SHOOTING STARS. EVEN A LIGHTFOOT EXPERT IS STUNNED BY THEIR SPEED.
I HAD HEARD ABOUT HOW POWERFUL THE THREE SKULL GOBLINS ARE. I SEE THE RUMORS WERE TRUE!
GHOST SHADOW'S KICKS ARE SPLIT IN THREE DIRECTIONS.

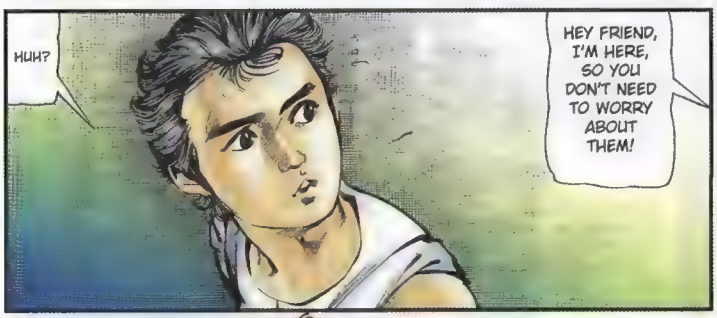
He has always been matched on par with Gecko Seizing Dragon, but he ignores the insult.
HMPH!
It is Ghost Shadow!
THAT DISPLAY OF LIGHTFOOT SKILL AND KICK PROWESS MUST MEAN THAT YOU ARE THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL FIGHTER AFTER THE MONK, HEAD OF THE NO SHADOW SCHOOL, NO SHADOW GHOST KICK!
YOU MONSTERS AND GHOSTS ARE A EVIL IN THIS LAND. WE HAVE COME TO PUSH YOUR MARTIAL ARTS OUT OF THIS COUNTRY.
THE ELDERS GET TO THE POINT QUICKLY.
YOU MUST HAVE COME FOR A REASON, WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?
RETURN TONIGHT. YOU ARE NOT WELCOME TO STAY ANY LONGER!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US!
WE HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH DEATH GATE AND WILL LEAVE AS SOON AS IT HAS ENDED!
FIRST ATTACKER HAS THE ADVANTAGE!
TAKE HIM!
A BEACON SHOOTS UP INTO THE SKY, ITS PIERCING SCREAM A CLEAR SIGNAL.
WE WILL HAVE TO RESOLVE THIS THE HARD WAY THEN!
Sorry, but we cannot comply!

WHO ARE YOU?
!啊
!啪
!鸣
BLUE SKULL GOBLIN RUSHES FORTH TO CATCH HIM.
All three kicks seem to land simultaneously.
No Shadow Ghost Kick
Ghost Shadow
Gecko Seizing Dragon
Sihai Yu
THERE ARE TWO CURRENT MASTERS IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD...

I AM THE MONK WHO HAS COME TO EXORCISE DEMONS FROM THIS PLACE!
The sneeze releases a blast of chi, slamming into the monster's gut.
GO BACK AND TELL YOUR LEADERS THAT THE SNEEZING MONK HAS COME FOR YOU!
HE'S GOOD!
THE CREATURE IS OUT!
WHO'S THERE?
Then I came right back here.

!相
乞嘘！
I'M JUST PLAYING HIDE AND SEEK WITH THEM, I'M NOT AFRAID!
HA, SEE! I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T AFRAID?
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE HIDING!
THE MONK INTENTIONALLY DREW THE TWO INSIDE.
!相
WAH!
HUH?
THE TWO HESITATE. JIAN'S MOVE IS TOO BOLD AND DEFIANT FOR SOMEONE SO YOUNG AND UNSKILLED.
I'M NOT SCARED, COME AND GET ME IF YOU DARE!
WHERE DID THIS MONK COME FROM?
AH!
HA HA! TWO BIG GUYS LIKE YOU AFRAID OF A LITTLE PUNK?

HOW COULD HE DISAPPEAR SO QUICKLY?
JIAN KNOWS THE AREA WELL. HE TURNS THE CORNER AND IMMEDIATELY HIDES.
DAMN IT!


HUH?
HEY FRIEND, I'M HERE, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THEM!

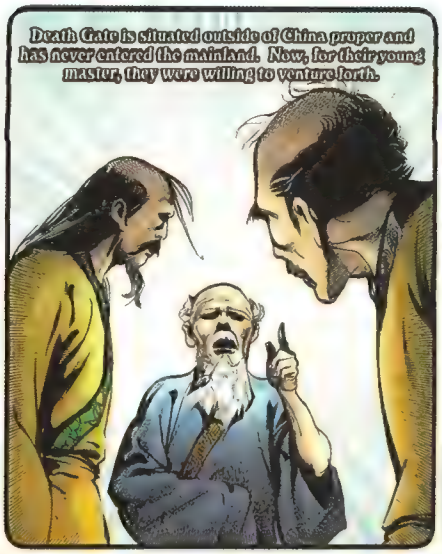
JIAN SEES A MONK SITTING ON THE GROUND, WITH HIS BACK TO A LARGE NUMBER OF UNCONSCIOUS VILLAGERS. HOW ODD!
COME HERE!

THIS IS DEATH GATE'S TACTIC. THEY DID NOT WANT TO DISTURB THE VILLAGERS OR ALERT SHENG NU TO THEIR PLANS.

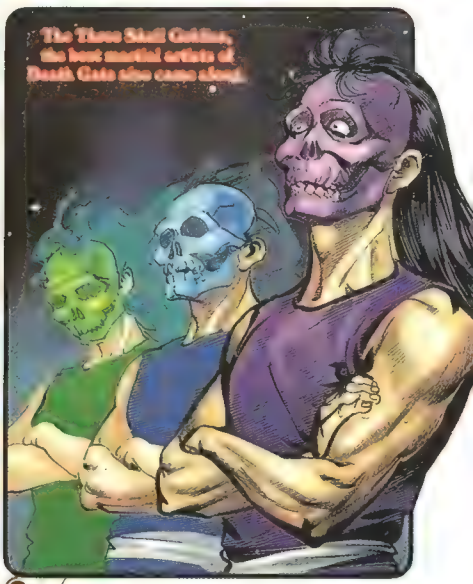
AROUND DUSK, THE VILLAGERS SUDDENLY SMELLED A STRANGE MEDICINAL HERB, AND THEN PROMPTLY FAINTED.

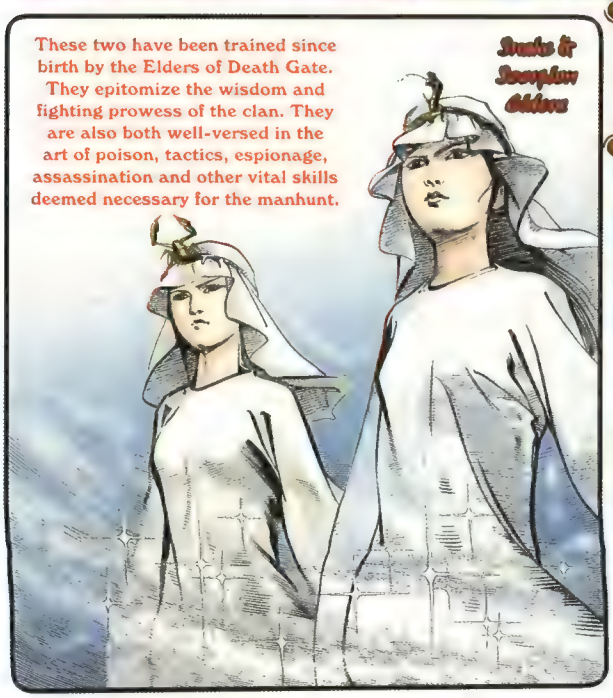
ELDERS, SOMEONE RESCUED THE KID!
UNDER THEIR LEADERSHIP, THE SEARCH PARTY WAS ABLE TO FIND CLUES TO JIAN'S WHERE-ABOUTS AFTER HALF A MONTH OF INTENSIVE SEARCHING.
NOW, AFTER A CAREFULLY PLANNED MISSION, SHENG NU HAS FINALLY BEEN CAPTURED.
Well, I was carrying the kid back here.
WHO?
SO YOU WERE FAKING IT!
TAKE THIS, SUCKERS!
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN!

They chose one hundred of Death Gate's brightest and best, trained them under the Death Gate Ambassador, and began an extensive manhunt..

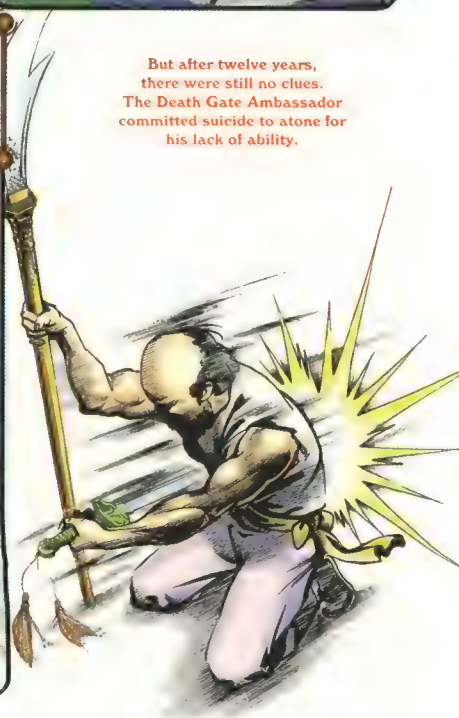

Death Gate is situated outside of China proper and has never entered the mainland. Now, for their young master, they were willing to venture forth.

DEATH GATE CANNOT BE WITHOUT A MASTER, SO THE ELDERS HELD AN EMERGENCY COUNCIL TO DISCUSS A COURSE OF ACTION.


The Three Skull Goblins, the best martial artists of Death Gate also came along.


These two have been trained since birth by the Elders of Death Gate. They epitomize the wisdom and fighting prowess of the clan. They are also both well-versed in the art of poison, tactics, espionage, assassination and other vital skills deemed necessary for the manhunt.
Snake & Scorpion Elders

BUT THE SEARCH CONTINUED. THEY SENT THE SNAKE AND SCORPION ELDERS TO CONTINUE LEADING THE HUNT.


But after twelve years, there were still no clues. The Death Gate Ambassador committed suicide to atone for his lack of ability.

!指
HUH?
Just as the two creatures are about to kill them, their bodies grow weak and powerless!
SHENG NU'S ROAR AWAKENS THE VILLAGE.
WHAT HAPPENED?
VERY WELL; HE HAS BEEN CAPTURED ALIVE.
HOW GOES IT?
WITH THAT, WHITE SNAKE DEFTLY GLIDES AWAY.
YES!
YOU TWO, LOCK THE KID UP!
THE SNAKE AND SCORPION ELDERS AND THEIR GANGS ARE FROM DEATH GATE.

UPON WHITE SCORPION'S BEHEST, THE THREE MOVE SWIFTLY, LIKE A SINGLE UNIT.
LET'S GO!
THOSE HOLDING THE NET ARE TOSSED BACK AND SMASHED AGAINST THE WALL.
WHITE SCORPION ELDER IS STILL SLIGHTLY STUNNED BY THE CHI BLAST AND KEEPS HER DISTANCE. THE THREE SKULL GOBLINS RUSH IN USING THEIR LIGHTFOOT SKILL TO FORM A SWIRLING TORNADO, KEEPING SHENG NU TRAPPED WITHIN.
AH...
But Sheng Nu's eyes are already glazed over...
...
White Scorpion does not want to risk a direct confrontation. A light shines from her eyes as she uses...
Arrestrick Soul Technique
On the other side, Jian is still trapped...
...as the Vampire has already fled.

White Scorpion Elder
White Snake Elder
Green, Purple, Blue
Skull Goblins
Trapped in the nets, Sheng Nu must use all of his strength to break free!
An ear-splitting roar of internal chi bursts forth.
!吼

中華英雄

Chinese Hero

-Tales of the Blood Sword-

Chapter 12:

Hell Master

Sheng Nu looks up only to see the trap closing in...
!呀
Trapped from above and below, Sheng Nu has nowhere to run.

Sheng Nu is instantly enveloped in poison gas.
AFTER INHALING THE AIR, HE FEELS WEAK IN THE LIMBS AND NEARLY FAINTS.
FROM HIGH ABOVE, HE THROWS DOWN TWO POISONOUS GAS FIRE BOMBS.
STEPPING OUTSIDE, HE FEELS SOMETHING SOFT UNDER HIS FEET. IT'S A TRAP!
EVENTUALLY, HE CAN NO LONGER STAND IT AND BREAKS THROUGH THE BARRICADE.

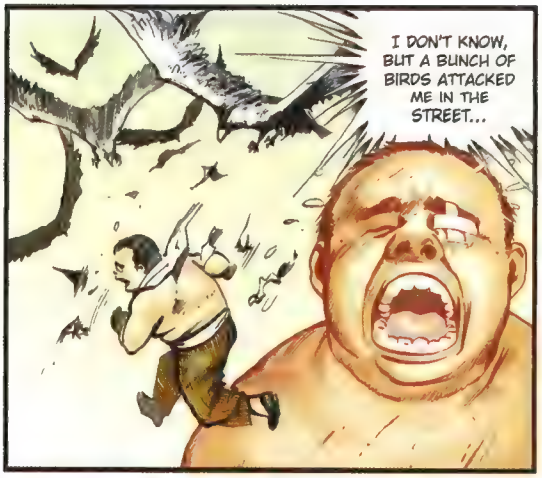
AND FORCES IT BACK OUTSIDE.
SUDDENLY LONG SPEARS FLY THROUGH THE WINDOW.
SHENG NU QUICKLY REDIRECTS THE GAS...
HUA!
HALF OF A BROKEN SPEAR FLIES THROUGH THE ROOF.
BUT HE EASILY SNAPS THEM IN HALF WITH HIS ROBUST CHI.
WAH!
SHENG NU'S INTERNAL POWERS HAVE REACHED A PEAK. HE'S STRONGER THAN EVER.
YES!
GREEN SKULL, USE YOUR POISON BOMB TO FORCE HIM OUT!
THIS OLD MAN IS REALLY TOUGH; I THINK WE FOUND HIM!

Iron Claw Tiger
EVERYONE, THEY'VE ENTERED THE VILLAGE. WE'LL SURROUND THEM AND WAIT FOR THOSE FROM THE NO SHADOW SCHOOL TO GIVE US THE SIGNAL. THEN WE WILL ATTACK!
OKAY!
Meanwhile, a large group of fighters have gathered in the village.
THEY EACH SPREAD OUT AND SILENTLY RUN THROUGH THE VILLAGE. CLEARLY ALL ARE MASTER MARTIAL ARTISTS.
His expertise in herbology alerts him to the special smell of the smoke.
TIRED FROM HOURS OF SEEING PATIENTS, SHENG NU TAKES A NAP.
AT JIAN AND SHENG NU'S HOME -
IT'S SLEEPING GAS!

!嗚
!唔
Jian suddenly throws up fistfuls of sand.
A sharp and piercing laughter reaches him as the mysterious white-robed girl glides towards Jian.
Haha... Haha... Haha....
!啊
I'M OUT OF HERE!
!啊
!啊

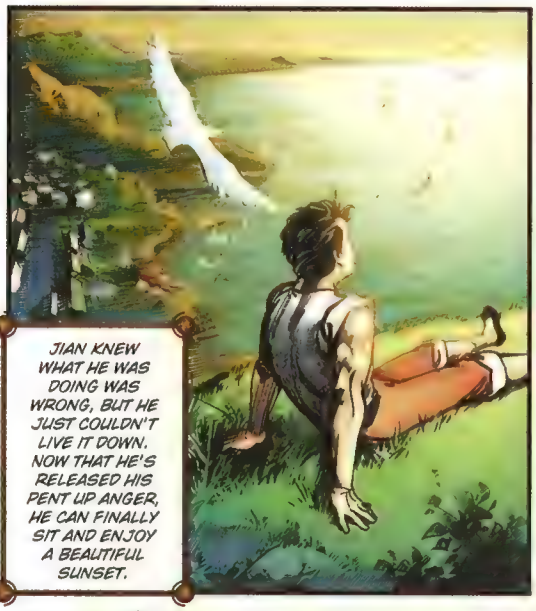
HEY AUNTIE, ARE YOU HOME?
Jian keeps his calm under the extraordinary circumstances.
TAKE HIM!
JIAN TURNS AND RUNS!
SO... SORRY, WRONG DOOR!
嗬!
!
HUH?
YOU'VE COME FOR ME...

THE TWO GLIDE TOWARDS THE VILLAGE. THEY ARE CLEARLY MARTIAL ARTISTS.
THEN IN GROUPS OF THREE TO FIVE, MORE MARTIAL ARTISTS HEAD TOWARDS THE VILLAGE.
THAT'S WEIRD ...
IT'S ALREADY DARK OUT BUT THERE ARE NO LIGHTS ON.
WITH THE LIGHT FADING, JIAN HURRIES HOME FOR SUPPER.
IT'S NOT THAT LATE, SO WHERE IS EVERYBODY?
Walking into the darkened village, he is greeted by deathly silence.


I DON'T KNOW, BUT A BUNCH OF BIRDS ATTACKED ME IN THE STREET...

MOM ...
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

PAH!
PAH!


JIAN KNEW WHAT HE WAS DOING WAS WRONG, BUT HE JUST COULDN'T LIVE IT DOWN. NOW THAT HE'S RELEASED HIS PENT UP ANGER, HE CAN FINALLY SIT AND ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET.

HOW EMBARRASSING. COME INSIDE NOW!

I'M SURE IT'S JUST OVER THERE!
BROTHER, DON'T DO THIS!
HEY KID, ARE YOU DEAF?

WHY WOULD THEY BE GOING TO THE VILLAGE?
IT'S ALMOST DARK, LET'S NOT WASTE TIME. LET'S GO!

The man isn't very polite, so Jian ignores him.

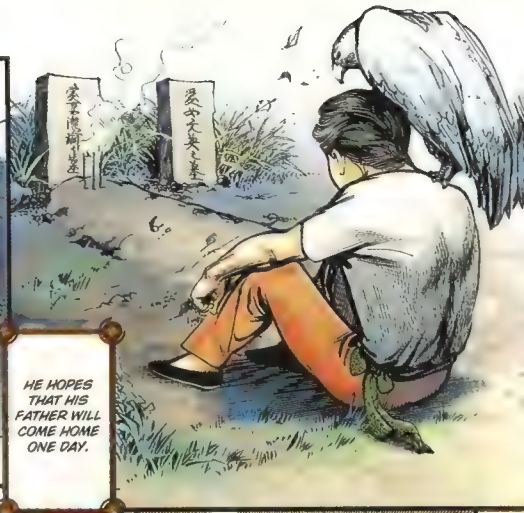
HEY, IS THAT THE FISHING VILLAGE BELOW?

WHO?
WAH!
AH, IT'S YOU...
I'VE COME TO RETURN YOUR POMEGRANATES!
IT'S DOG MEAT!
HA, WHAT'S THIS?
HERE, THIS DELICIOUS CASSEROLE IS FOR YOU!
TEE HEE!
HERE'S YOUR DOG THAT RAN AWAY, I'M GIVING HIM BACK TO YOU!

HMPH!
HEH...
JIAN, COME IN HERE!
HA!
噗!
啪!
噗!
啪!
PLEASE DON'T HIT ME ANYMORE!
THAT'LL TEACH HIM!
噗!
I HAVE TO PUNISH YOU!
OH NO...
Next Day
啪!
HE IS A BIT TOO PLAYFUL, BUT A GOOD KID AT HEART.
Though Shang Yu did not punish him, Jian knew what he did was wrong and knelt for four hours that night as his own punishment.

HE STOLE ALL MY POMEGRANATES, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY ME!

SORRY EVERYONE...


HE HOPES THAT HIS FATHER WILL COME HOME ONE DAY.

Sheng Nu has not martial arts. He is as strong as he was fifteenyears ago.
EVERYONE, I WILL REPAY YOU FOR YOUR DAMAGES.

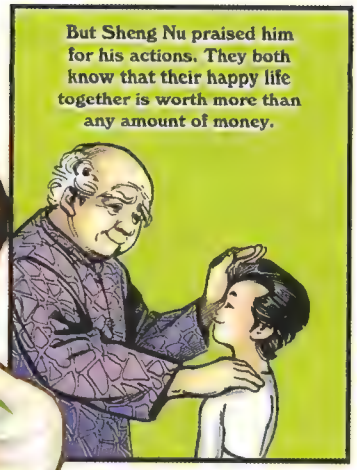
MY DOG CHASED HIM AND HE HASN'T RETURNED YET.
YESTERDAY, HE STOLE MY POTATOES.

HE BEAT UP MY SON, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

!

HAVE YOU SAID ENOUGH?

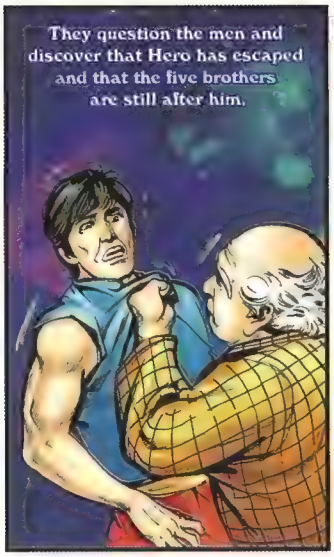
Before long, Jian turns 15.

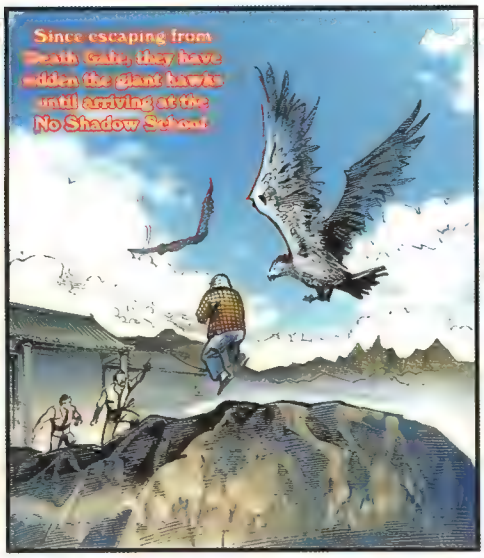


He is also clever and mischievous, no one dares to trouble him in the village. So they call him – Little Tyrant.

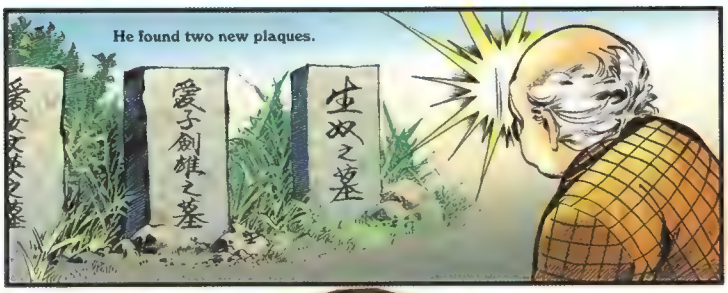
IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY, FATTY!
HELP ME!
THAT'S NOT WHY I SAVED YOU!
BUT THESE ARE PRICELESS PIECES, YOU CAN BUY A WHOLE HOUSE AND LAND WITH THIS!
HERE LITTLE FRIEND, THIS IS FOR YOU.
THE RICH MERCHANT PULLS OUT A MONEY CHEST FILLED WITH GOLD AND GEMS.
IT'S NO BIGGIE!
•COUGH• •COUGH•
THANK YOU...
啊
I'D LIKE TO SPLIT THIS AMONGST EVERYONE!
ALL RIGHT, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE IT!
PLEASE ACCEPT THEM AS THANKS FOR SAVING MY LIFE!
I'M LIVING FINE, WITH NO WORRIES. I DON'T NEED THEM.
THE STORY OF JIAN'S ACTIONS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE. EVERYONE THOUGHT HE WAS A FOOL FOR NOT TAKING THE MONEY.
FATTY, BETTER LEARN TO SWIM WHEN YOU GET HOME!
IDIOT!

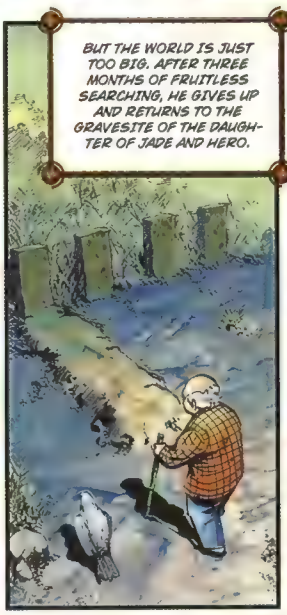
He's quite the trouble-maker at school.
Time passes, and now Jian is ten.
Sheng Nu is especially good to Jian, treating him as his young master. The two live together and support one another.
He sees a merchant ship on fire.
This day, after school, while heading home...
But ironically, he is an excellent student who scores at the top of his class. What can the teachers do?
SOME-THING EXCITING TO SEE!
HA HA ...
SWIMMING TO THE SITE OF THE INCIDENT, HE WATCHES FROM A FLOATING LOG.
JIAN GREW UP IN A FISHING VILLAGE, SO HE'S QUITE THE SWIMMER.

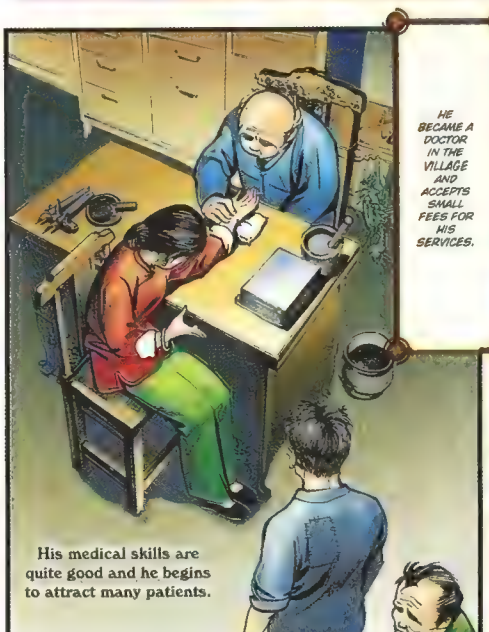




First lets check in on Jiang and Shen Nu...







WHAT IF GENERAL SATAN DOESN'T GIVE UP AND CONTINUES TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR ME?
THANK YOU!
好!
Very good!
THEN IT IS DESTINY, AND THERE IS NOTHING THAT EITHER OF US CAN DO TO STOP IT.
Sword Saint's two greatest worries have been resolved. He can now ascend to heaven in peace.
Feeling no pulse, Hero realizes that Sword Saint has passed away.
Hero can feel Sword Saint's hand grow cold.

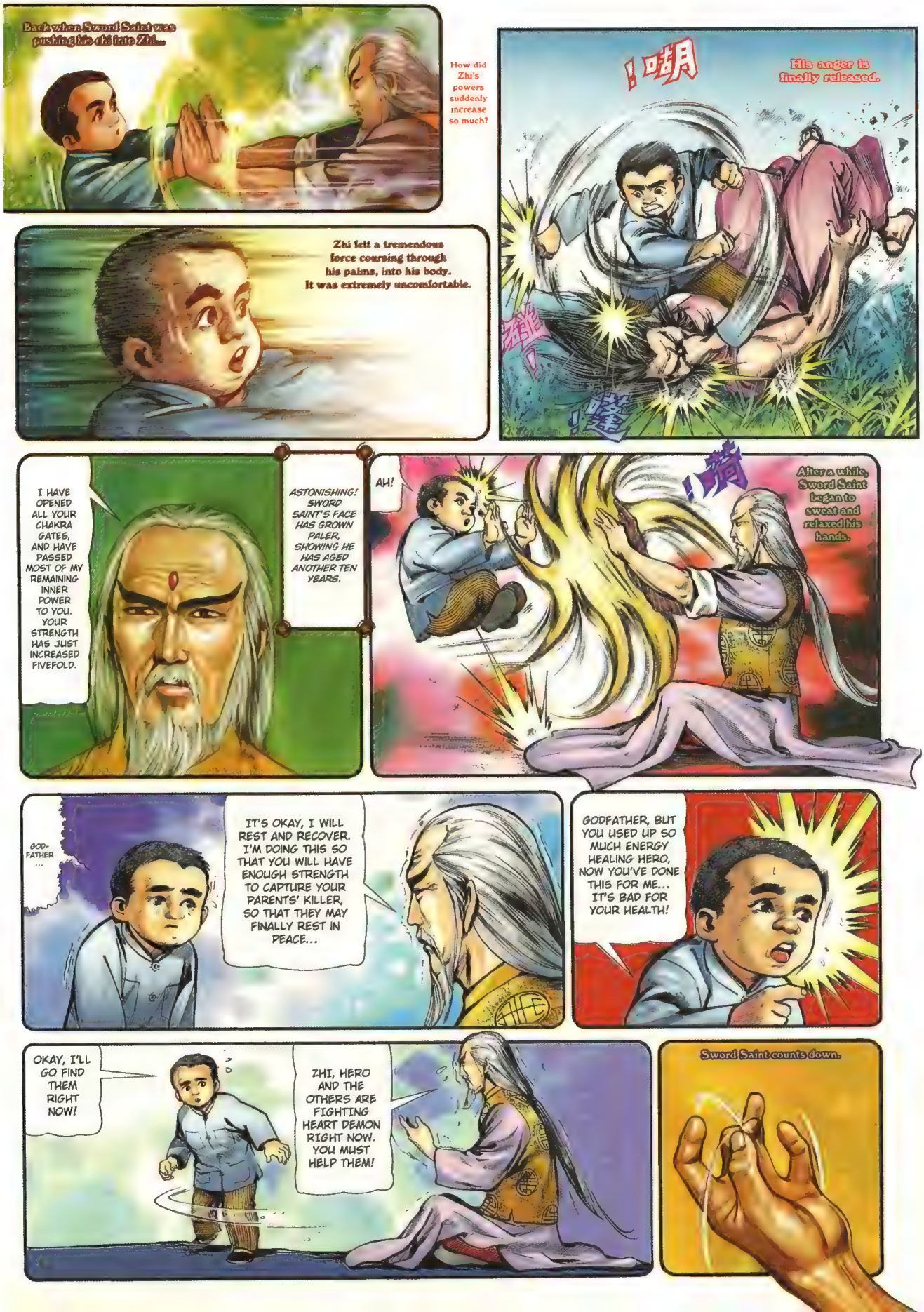
SIR, YOU HAVE DONE SO MUCH FOR ME! IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO, I WILL NOT HESITATE FOR A SECOND!
THERE IS SOMETHING THAT ONLY YOU CAN DO, BUT I'M NOT SURE IF YOU WILL WANT TO...
SIR, WHAT ABOUT THE SEC-OND ITEM?
WITH YOUR PROMISE, I FEEL RELIEVED!
HE HAS ALSO KILLED MY DISCIPLES, BUT HOW MANY OF HIS PEOPLE DO YOU THINK MUST BE EXTIN-GUISHED TO EQUAL THEIRS?
BUT GENERAL SATAN HAS KILLED MY FRIEND AND FAMILY, HOW I CAN JUST LET IT GO?!
FROM YOUR EYES, I CAN SEE THAT YOU ARE STILL FILLED WITH HATE AND A DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE. MY HOPE IS THAT YOU WILL TURN FROM THIS PATH OF REVENGE!
WELL ...
THOSE I KILL WILL THEN HAVE OTHERS WHO COME, HUNGERING FOR REVENGE. THIS CYCLE WILL NEVER END. HOW MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL DIE FROM THIS?
HERO HAS NO ANSWER, BUT HIS EYES REMAIN DEFIANT.
SINCE YOU HAVE PROMISED ME TO TAKE CARE OF ZHI AND QIN, THEN YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF FOR THEIR SAKE!
IF YOU WERE TO LOSE YOUR LIFE TO GENERAL SATAN IN YOUR QUEST FOR VENGEANCE, THEN WHAT ABOUT YOUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR YOU? WHAT ABOUT ALL THAT I HAVE SACRIFICED TO SAVE YOU!? IS THAT ALL FOR NOTHING?
SIR, I PROMISE YOU, I WILL!
IF YOU DON'T WANT ANYONE ELSE TO DIE BECAUSE OF YOU, THEN STOP THIS CYCLE OF VIOLENCE!

HERO, SWORD SAINT WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU, ALONE!
Inside Moon Cave -
JUE QIAN WAS WITH EVERYONE SINCE THE BEGINNING. HE WAS LIKE A BROTHER. HIS DEATH DEEPLY SADDENS GHOST SERVANT AND HERO.
Their eyes meet, but they are silent for a long time.
THERE ARE TWO THINGS WHICH I CANNOT LET GO OF, SO I WAS WONDERING ...
SIR, WHY DO YOU SIGH? IS THERE SOME-THING WRONG?
"SIGH"
THEY ARE BRIGHT AND WONDERFUL CHILDREN. I WILL TREAT THEM AS MY OWN BROTHER AND SISTER, SO PLEASE DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THEM.
I AM ALREADY PAST ONE-HUNDRED YEARS OLD AND READY TO LEAVE THIS LIFE BEHIND, BUT ZHI AND QIN WILL BE LEFT ALL ALONE...
SIR, IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT I CAN DO FOR YOU, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO ASK.

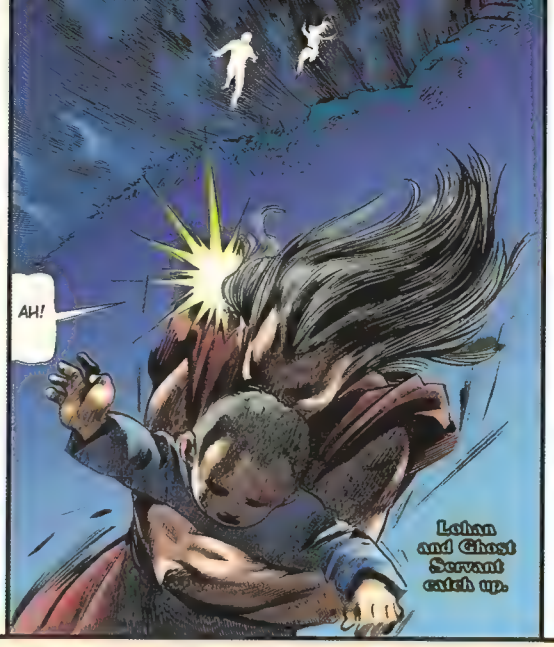
HIS MISSION FAILED, SO HE WOULD RATHER DIE. I BET HE WAS SENT BY GENERAL SATAN...
WAH!
IT IS TOO LATE. HEART DEMON HAS COMMITTED SUICIDE BY SWALLOWING THE POISON HIDDEN IN HIS FALSE TOOTH.
隆!
啊!
HIS HEART WAS SPLIT, HE'S ALREADY... DEAD...
...
HOW'S JUE QIAN?
RAIN FALLS THROUGH THE NIGHT, AS IF THE HEAVENS ARE ALSO CRYING OVER THE DEATH OF GOOD FRIENDS!
JUE QIAN'S BODY IS CARRIED BACK TO MOON CAVE, WHERE HERO BURIES HIM WITH HIS OWN HANDS...

HE FOLLOWED THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE...
With his new powers, he could hear everything more clearly.
HERO HIMSELF IS ABSOLUTELY STUNNED.
LOHAN AND GHOST SERVANT COME FORWARD ONLY TO FIND HEART DEMON SUBDUED BY ZHI.
HU...
AND HIS STRIKE WAS SO POWERFUL THAT IT LEFT HEART DEMON BARELY ALIVE.
WHY ARE YOU STOPPING US?
LOOK!
I WANT TO KILL HIM TOO, BUT GODFATHER SAYS WE MUST CAPTURE HIM ALIVE.
WAH!
DON'T KILL HIM!

YOU HAVE THE POWER, BUT YOU STILL LACK THE BATTLE EXPERIENCE. WHEN YOU FACE HEART DEMON, DO NOT TAKE HIM HEAD ON.
YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR HIM. MAKE HIM LOWER HIS GUARD TOWARDS YOU. THAT IS THE PATH TO VICTORY.
OH!
THIS WILL HELP YOU RESIST HEART DEMON'S TECHNIQUE. WEAR IT!
Sword Saint's Sun Protection Plate.
WAIT!
REVENGE SHOULD BE PLANNED CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD FIND THE TRUTH BEFOREHAND, OTHERWISE...
I WANT TO KNOW IF HE TRULY MURDERED YOUR PARENTS, AND IF SO, WHY.
WHY?
ALSO, DON'T KILL HIM, CAPTURE HIM ALIVE!
QIN, STAY HERE WITH GOD-FATHER!
AH!
THIS..
After a long night of using his powers, Sword Saint is exhausted, and falls asleep before he can finish his sentence.
HE FLIES THROUGH THE FOREST SEARCHING FOR HERO AND THE OTHERS.
Zhi is confident in his new powers and rushes out of Moon Cave.


Back when Sword Saint was pushing his chi into Zhi...
How did Zhi's powers suddenly increase so much?
His anger is finally released.
Zhi felt a tremendous force coursing through his palms, into his body. It was extremely uncomfortable.
I HAVE OPENED ALL YOUR CHAKRA GATES, AND HAVE PASSED MOST OF MY REMAINING INNER POWER TO YOU. YOUR STRENGTH HAS JUST INCREASED FIVEFOLD.
ASTONISHING! SWORD SAINT'S FACE HAS GROWN PALER, SHOWING HE HAS AGED ANOTHER TEN YEARS.
AH!
After a while, Sword Saint began to sweat and relaxed his hands.
GOD-FATHER ...
IT'S OKAY, I WILL REST AND RECOVER. I'M DOING THIS SO THAT YOU WILL HAVE ENOUGH STRENGTH TO CAPTURE YOUR PARENTS' KILLER, SO THAT THEY MAY FINALLY REST IN PEACE...
GODFATHER, BUT YOU USED UP SO MUCH ENERGY HEALING HERO, NOW YOU'VE DONE THIS FOR ME... IT'S BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH!
OKAY, I'LL GO FIND THEM RIGHT NOW!
ZHI, HERO AND THE OTHERS ARE FIGHTING HEART DEMON RIGHT NOW. YOU MUST HELP THEM!
Sword Saint counts down.

I'LL KILL YOU FIRST!


AH!
Lohan and Ghost Servant catch up.

Heart Demon's internal organs are completely ruptured.

Heart Drill
HERO ROLLS STRAIGHT TO THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL, WITH HEART DEMON IN HOT PURSUIT.
Be careful!
HIS CHI IS STRONG. I MUST ATTACK FIRST!
IT'S A CHILD?
嘩
通～通～
呀

WITH ONLY THE TWO OF THEM AROUND, HEART DEMON FELT HE HAD A CHANCE AT VICTORY.
HEART DEMON'S REPEATED FAILURES HAVE STUNTED HIS CONFIDENCE. HE FOLLOWS HIS TECHNIQUE WITH A PHYSICAL ATTACK.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

HUA!
嗖!
THERE IS STILL SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TWO. HERO LUNGES...
AFTER A FEW ROLLS, HE IS ABLE TO CONTROL HIS FALL.
THE STRIKE FALLS SHORT AND HERO TUMBLES DOWN THE HILL!
嘣!
SUDDENLY A FAMILIAR PAIN ENVELOPES HIS HEART...
嘭!
嘭!
HIS PALM STRIKES ARE LIKE A GIANT TIDAL WAVE OF FORCE, SHOCKING EVEN HEART DEMON.

THE BLOOD SWORD ACTS AS A LIGHTNING ROD, CONDUCTING A BOLT OF ELECTRICITY INTO THE GROUND. HEART DEMON'S HEART IS STRUCK BY THE MASSIVE JOLT, DISRUPTING HIS TECHNIQUE, AND REPELLING HIS BODY.
吐
噹
With no way to win, he flees.
HIS INTERNAL ORGANS ARE INJURED BY THIS FORCE OF NATURE!
休想走!
You can't get away!
Hero's chi is the strongest, so he gives chase.
Lohan and Ghost Servant sit to heal.
!唷

Son of Hero –
劍雄
Jian Xiong
All of you leave!
LIGHTNING SUDDENLY STRIKES THE GROUND!
Hero has an idea!

中華英雄

Chinese Hero

-Tales of the Blood Sword-

Chapter 11:

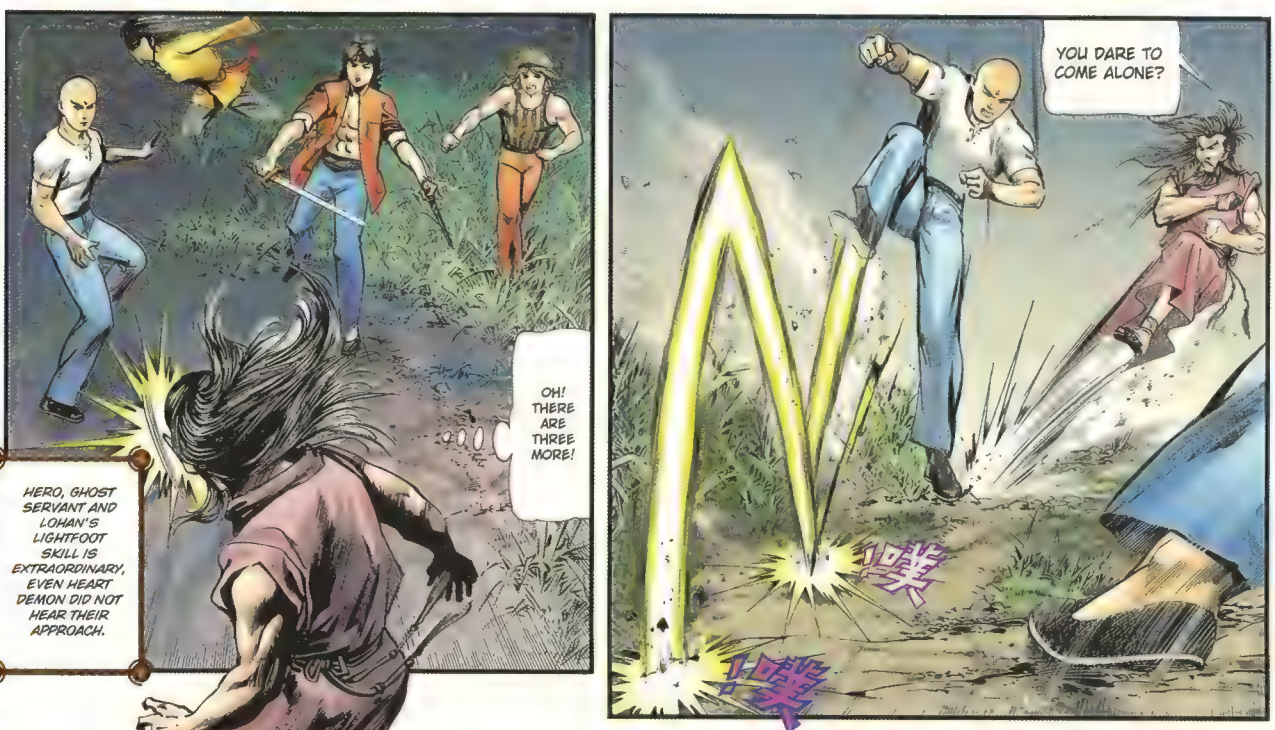
Jiang Xiong

But the anxiety in their hearts lowers their defenses, allowing Heart Demon to act.
HEART DEMON THROWS JUE QIAN TO THE GROUND AND MAXIMIZES THE PULL OF HIS TECHNIQUE TO FINISH HIM OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL.
Jue Qian's heartbeat is like that of a great drum, reverberating through the ground to the others. Heart Demon touches the earth and pushes his technique through the young fighter. It reaches the other fighters through their feet, gravely escalating their heart rates!
TRAPPED WITH THEIR HEARTS ON THE VERGE OF BURSTING, WHAT WILL THE THREE FIGHTERS DO?

HERO, MAINTAIN A STRONG HEART, DON'T LET HIM GET TO YOU WITH HIS TECHNIQUE!
JUE QIAN, WHAT'S WRONG?
Suddenly Jue's heart begins to beat faster.
OH!
YOU HAVE NOWHERE TO RUN!
噗
嘿
Remembering Sword Elder's death, the three fighters rush forward.
吐
With the hearts connected, Jue Qian completely falls into Heart Demon's trap. His heart is on fire. Pain courses through his body.
THE MOMENT JUE'S HEART RELAXES, HEART DEMON SEIZES HIM FROM BEHIND AND LINKS THEIR TWO HEARTS.

HE HAS BEEN LIVING A LONG TIME WITH BATS, AS A RESULT HIS HEARING HAS GROWN SHARPER.
HEART DEMON IS BANDAGING HIS WOUNDS.
In a cave atop the hill–
HA! SOME-ONE IS COMING THIS WAY.

Dragon Shadow Fist
降龍大成
Reptilian Dragon
Heaven Sent
!啪
GOOD, ANOTHER IDIOT COMING TO DIE.


HERO, GHOST SERVANT AND LOHAN'S LIGHTFOOT SKILL IS EXTRAORDINARY, EVEN HEART DEMON DID NOT HEAR THEIR APPROACH.
OH! THERE ARE THREE MORE!
YOU DARE TO COME ALONE?
!咚
!咚

AH!
Sword Saint presses his palms against Zhi's and forces his chi into the young boy.
!嗬
BUT HE IS SO ELUSIVE, HOW WILL WE FIND HIM?
THE KILLER HAS STRUCK MULTIPLE TIMES! WE CAN'T JUST SIT AND WAIT TO BE KILLED! WE MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND FIGHT BACK!
HERO, WHAT ARE WE DOING OUT HERE?
HERO BURIED BAI AND THE OTHERS, THEN GRABBED THE BLOOD SWORD AND HEADED TOWARDS THE FOREST.
HE IMMEDIATELY RESPONDS TO HERO'S CALL.
GHOST SERVANT, DID YOU FIND HIM?
I HAVE A WAY!
HERO CLOSES HIS EYES TO CONCENTRATE.
STEP LIGHTLY, DON'T DISTURB THE PREY!

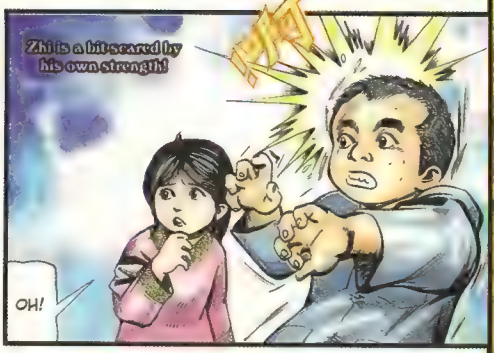
GODFATHER, ARE YOU SAYING THAT MAN IS MY PARENTS' KILLER?
THE TECHNIQUE USED BY THE KILLER ALL THOSE YEARS AGO IS THE SAME. IN FACT, THE TECHNIQUE IS MUCH MORE POWERFUL NOW.
End Flashback
Zhi is extremely emotional, but because of her young age, Qin isn't sure how to feel.
REVENGE ...
Ah! I will kill him with my own hands!
YES, I BELIEVE SO.
QIN, GO TO THE CAVE ENTRANCE AND LET US KNOW IF ANYONE APPROACHES!
OKAY!
GODFATHER, HE KILLED MY PARENTS! HOW CAN I JUST LET HIM GO?
YOUR CURRENT SKILL LEVELS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO DEFEAT HEART DEMON.
LIFT YOUR PALMS!

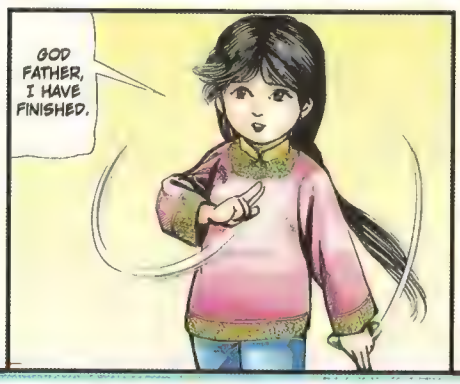
MOON GATE MASTER WAS THE FIRST TO ARRIVE.
The sounds woke those in China Tower.
BROTHER ZHI, WHAT'S HAPPENED?
!吐
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY CHILDREN.
BROTHER ZHI, WHO HAS DONE THIS TO YOU?
HEART DEMON ...
Opening the door, they saw the couple lying in a pool of blood.
!嘩
BUT HEART DEMON IS KNOWN FOR HIS METICULOUS PLANNING, HE ALWAYS HAS THE SHORTEST ESCAPE ROUTES THOROUGHLY PLANNED BEFORE HIS ASSASSINATIONS. THE FIGHTERS SEARCHED ALL NIGHT, BUT FOUND NO CLUES OF HIS WHEREABOUTS.
Knowing the killer must be near by, the various fighters spread out.
He split his best techniques, the Five Extremities Mystic style into internal and external parts and, judging their best attributes, taught one part to each child.
THE COUPLE'S ORPHANS WERE TAKEN IN BY SWORD SAINT AND RAISED AS HIS OWN CHILDREN.
MOON GATE MASTER FELT GUILTY THAT HE FAILED IN HIS DUTIES TO PROTECT CHINA TOWER.

IS YOUR HEART BEATING FAST TOO?
!啊
Midnight, China Tower.
He died instantly of heart failure.
噗...噗...噗...噗
BEFORE SHE COULD RESPOND, HER HEART ALREADY BEGAN TO BEAT UNCONTROLLABLY. THEY QUICKLY BEGAN USING THEIR CHI TO PROTECT THEIR HEARTS.
YOU HAVE RUINED MY PLANS AND KILLED MY BROTHERS, THE BATS! YOU WILL PAY WITH YOUR LIVES!
Heart Demon
WHO'S THERE?
There's someone hiding under the bed!

SWORD SAINT, A GRACIOUS HOST, SHOWED THEM AROUND CHINATOWN.
WITH FRIENDS FROM AFAR VISITING, IT ADDED JOY TO THE ALREADY FESTIVE HOLIDAYS.
SEVEN YEARS AGO, DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR, THEY BROUGHT THEIR THREE YEAR OLD SON AND ONE MONTH OLD DAUGHTER TO AMERICA TO VISIT.
Loyi Zhi saw this and immediately brought the bats down with mere coins.
In broad day light, a man was attacked by a group of bats.
But on this day, something very peculiar happened.
GET AWAY, DON'T COME NEAR ME!
WHO ARE YOU?
FRIEND, ARE YOU OKAY?
HUH?
The man ran about ten steps before releasing a terrible scream.
HIS ACCURACY WAS ASTONISHING.

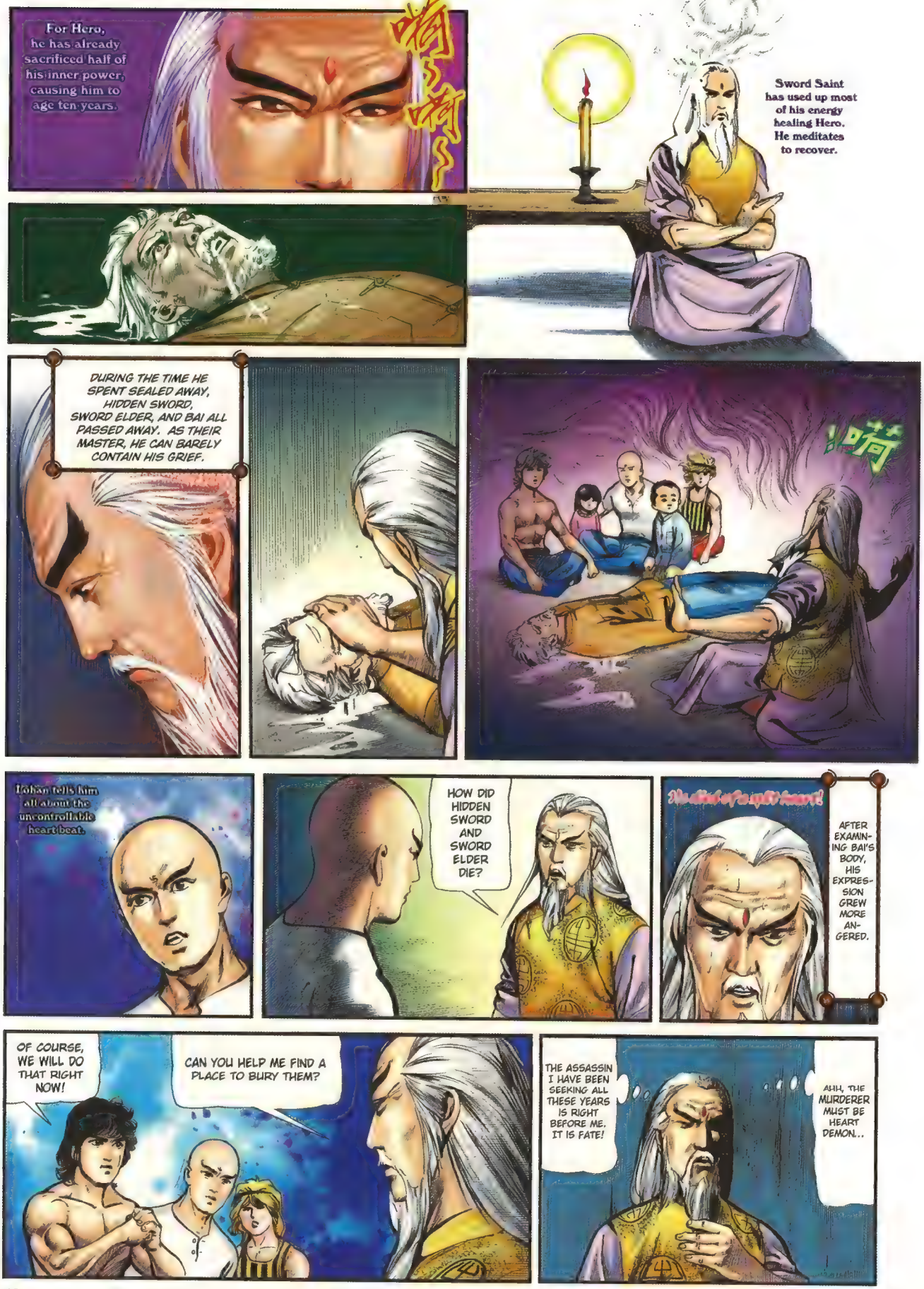
OKAY!
UM!
ALL RIGHT, THE TWO OF YOU SIT DOWN!
Sword Saint feels satisfied by their progress despite their young age.
HEHE, SORRY I FORGOT.
OH!
But once she reaches Lightning Style, she is unable to finish.
Due to their tender age, Sword Saint has always avoided speaking of this subject.
YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW HOW YOUR PARENTS DIED...
Before Sword Saint became the legend he is today, he and the couple were long time friends. They often discussed sword techniques and theories together.
HE STILL KEPT IN CONTACT WITH QIN AND ZHI'S PARENTS.
EVENTUALLY SWORD SAINT'S FAME ATTRACTED TOO MANY CHALLENGES AND VIOLENT ENEMIES, SO HE RETREATED TO AMERICA.
FATHER, LOYI ZHI'S SPECIALTY WAS THE PURPLE SWORD STYLE. MOTHER'S SPECIALTY WAS THE QING ROPE SWORD STYLE. THE COUPLE WERE OFTEN CALLED THE PURPLE INDIGO DOUBLE SWORDS.
YOUR PARENTS WERE RENOWNED STRAIGHT SWORD EXPERTS!





One of the most powerful Sword styles, the Five Extremities Style combines thousands of changing elements in one. Qin has to stop and collect herself several times, but is finally able to finish the Yin and Yang styles.

GODFATHER, I HAVE PRACTICED EVERYDAY.
ZHI, HAVE YOU BEEN PRACTICING WHAT I TAUGHT YOU?
VERY GOOD! NOW PUSH BOTH PALMS FORWARD AND RECITE TO ME WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED.
AS ZHI RECITES THE FORM, THE FLAME OF THE CANDLE BEGINS TO FLICKER AND THEN IS INEXPLICABLY EXTINGUISHED.
Zhi's homework is the teachings for the internal techniques of the
Five Extremity Mystic Style!
CALM YOUR HEART, GATHER THE CHI, RETURN TO DANTIAN...
LIFT THE SEA OF CHI TOWARDS YOUR LUNGS, CIRCULATE IT THROUGH YOUR BODY, AND THEN CONCENTRATE ON YOUR ARMS. LIFT YOUR HEART AND FORCE THE CHI OUT THROUGH THE PALMS OF YOUR HANDS.
VERY GOOD, NOW I WILL TEACH YOU THE LAST LESSON. AS YOU RECITE IT, CIRCULATE YOUR CHI WITH THE WORDS!
LIFT THE SEA OF CHI TOWARDS YOUR LUNGS, CIRCULATE IT THROUGH YOUR BODY, AND THEN CONCENTRATE ON YOUR ARMS. LIFT YOUR HEART AND FORCE THE CHI OUT THROUGH THE PALMS OF YOUR HANDS.

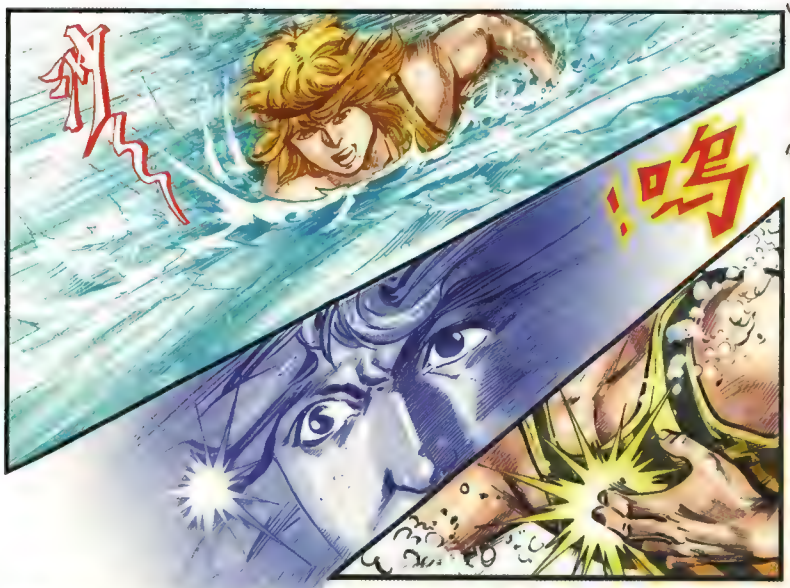

For Hero, he has already sacrificed half of his inner power, causing him to age ten years.
Sword Saint has used up most of his energy healing Hero. He meditates to recover.
DURING THE TIME HE SPENT SEALED AWAY, HIDDEN SWORD, SWORD ELDER, AND BAI ALL PASSED AWAY. AS THEIR MASTER, HE CAN BARELY CONTAIN HIS GRIEF.
Rohan tells him all about the uncontrollable heart beat.
HOW DID HIDDEN SWORD AND SWORD ELDER DIE?
AFTER EXAMINING BAI'S BODY, HIS EXPRESSION GREW MORE ANGERED.
OF COURSE, WE WILL DO THAT RIGHT NOW!
CAN YOU HELP ME FIND A PLACE TO BURY THEM?
THE ASSASSIN I HAVE BEEN SEEKING ALL THESE YEARS IS RIGHT BEFORE ME. IT IS FATE!
AHH, THE MURDERER MUST BE HEART DEMON...

THEY'RE FINE HERO!
ARE GHOST SERVANT AND JUE QIAN OKAY?
ANOTHER POWERFUL ONE!
Heart Demon's hesitation gives Hero an opening to attack.
OH!
THAT'S HERO HUA? FROM WHAT I FELT OF HIS STRIKE, IT SEEMS THAT HE IS NOT AT ALL INJURED...
THE HEART RENDING TECHNIQUE'S POWER TO CONTROL AN OPPONENT'S HEART RATE IS NOT MEANT FOR BATTLING HEAD-ON. HE WILL BIDE HIS TIME FOR A BETTER OPPORTUNITY.
THE FORCE IS TOO MUCH TO FACE HEAD ON.
AH!
GHOST SERVANT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YA!
GET AWAY!
WAH!
Hero Hua!
HIS INFINITE HEDRON PALM STYLE HELPED TO HASTEN HIS RECOVERY. WITH SWORD SAINT'S HELP, HIS CHAKRA POINTS ARE FURTHER ENHANCED AND HIS POWERS INCREASED BY A THIRD TURNING HIS MISFORTUNE INTO A BLESSING.

HELP...
HELP...
BAI DISRUPTED THE HEART RENDING TECHNIQUE LONG ENOUGH FOR JUE QIAN TO BREAK THROUGH THE SURFACE.
Bai is spent and dies with his energy completely drained!
BROTHER ...
HEART DEMON INTENTIONALLY LETS GHOST SERVANT AND JUE QIAN GO. HIS REAL PURPOSE IS TO LURE AWAY LOHAN AND ATTACK THE CAVE.

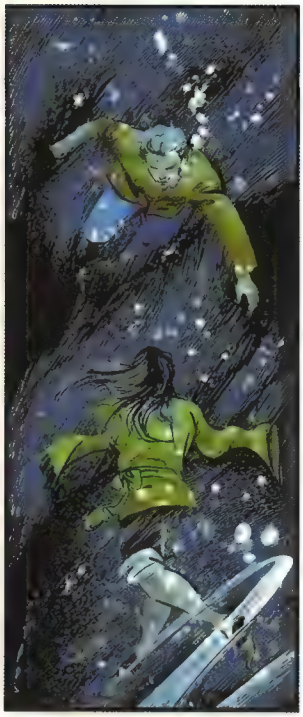
嗚!
Despite the strain he continues, only to have blood gush from every pore on his body.
HIS CONDITION WORSENS AS HE SWIMS CLOSER TO THE ASSASSIN. NOW WITHIN THREE YARDS, HIS HEART CAN NO LONGER WITHSTAND THE PAIN.
ONE LAST DESPERATE STRIKE!
烈陽歸一
Bright Sun Focus Ray
THE BLOW IS MIGHTY. BUT THE DEMON RE-LEASES HIS STAFF JUST IN TIME.
嘶~嘶~嘶~
嘩!
SADLY, BAI'S WILD SHOT WAS TOO FAR OFF ITS MARK.

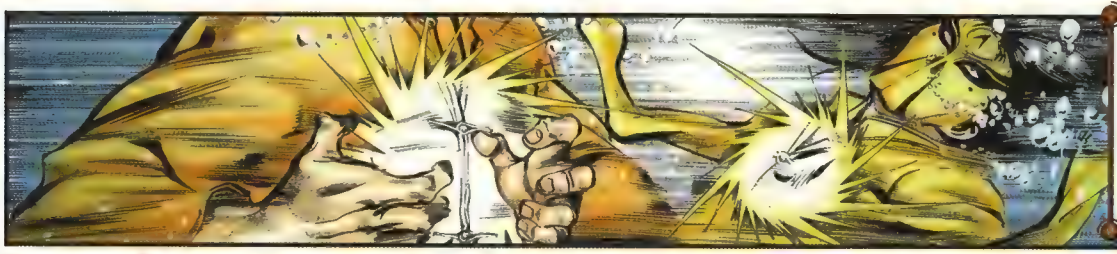


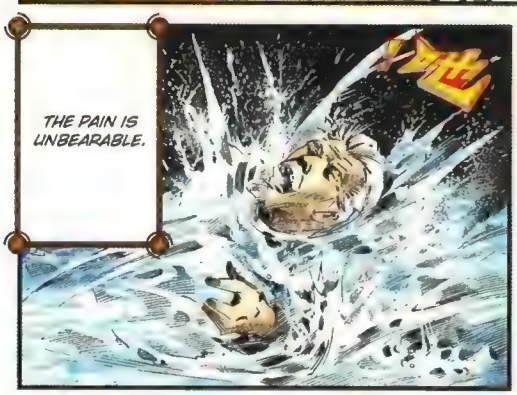
EVEN THE FISH SCRAMBLE TO ESCAPE THE MALICIOUS CHI..

SINCE HE MAY DIE ANYWAY, BAI FOCUSES HIS CHI TO PROTECT HIS HEART AS HE ADVANCES.

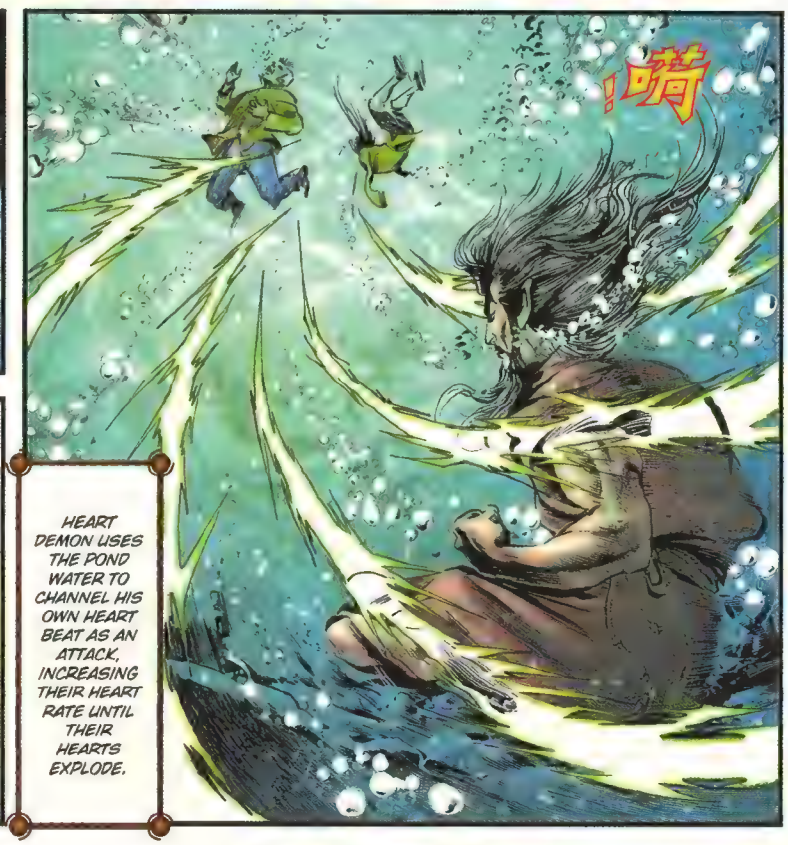
Heart Demon sinks to the bottom of the pond and begins circulating his chi for his.
撕心大法
Heart Rend Technique




A SPLITTING PAIN SEIZES BOTH THEIR HEARTS.


THE PAIN IS UNBEARABLE.

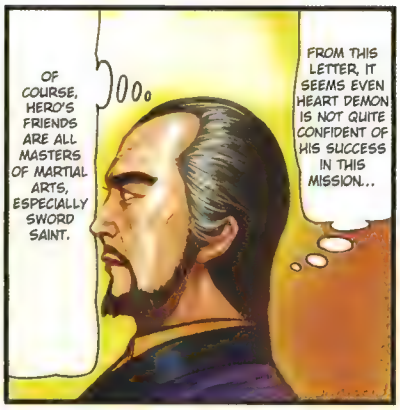
IT'S THAT TECHNIQUE AGAIN!


HEART DEMON USES THE POND WATER TO CHANNEL HIS OWN HEART BEAT AS AN ATTACK, INCREASING THEIR HEART RATE UNTIL THEIR HEARTS EXPLODE.

Ghost Rider Iron Plate Technique
鐵甲鬼影
Through the Clouds to the Moon
GHOST SERVANT HOPES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DEMON'S POSITION.
NO LUCK.

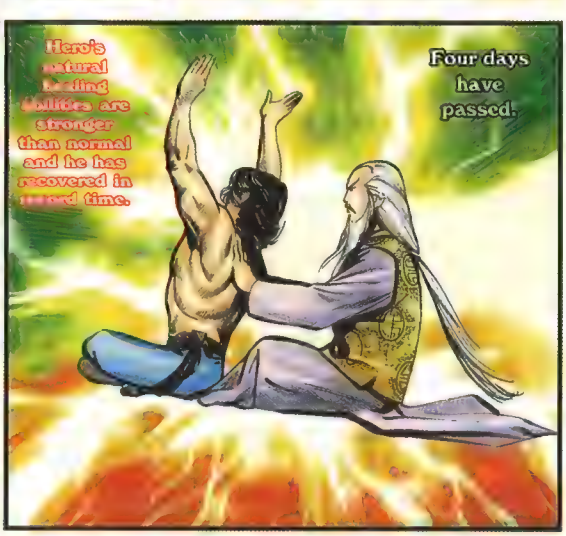
Still, his assailant's speed is astonishing.
HIS INCREASED HEART RATE ACTS AS AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM.
WHO'S THERE? COME OUT SO THAT I MAY AVENGE MY BROTHER'S DEATH!
Bright Sun Shine
AH!
Lohan releases two stones
Miraculous Snapping Fingers

IF HE IS HURT AS BADLY AS I THINK, THEN EVEN ALIVE HE WILL STILL BE USELESS TO ME.
Number One Assassin
心
魔
Heart Demon
HEART DEMON IS THE ASSASSIN GROUP'S MOST FEARED KILLER. IF HE FAILS AS WELL, I WILL BE FORCED TO GIVE UP PURSUING HERO.

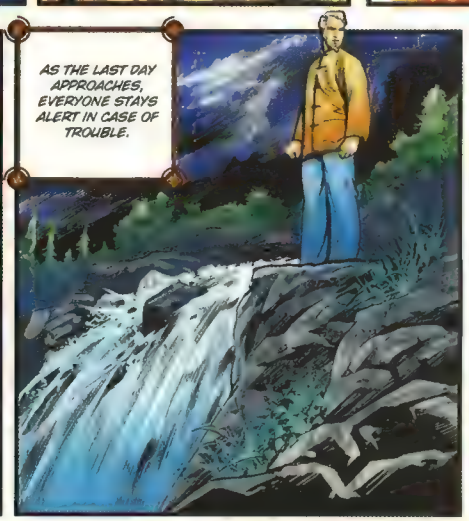

OF COURSE, HERO'S FRIENDS ARE ALL MASTERS OF MARTIAL ARTS, ESPECIALLY SWORD SAINT.
FROM THIS LETTER, IT SEEMS EVEN HEART DEMON IS NOT QUITE CONFIDENT OF HIS SUCCESS IN THIS MISSION...

HERO LEARNS OF WHAT HAPPENED AFTER SWORD SAINT RESCUED HIM. HE IS FILLED WITH GRATITUDE!

AS SOON AS HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS, HE USES INFINITE HEDRON PALM AND THE FIVE EXTREMITIES TO BEGIN HEALING HIMSELF.


Hero's natural healing abilities are stronger than normal and he has recovered in record time.
Four days have passed.

!OBE

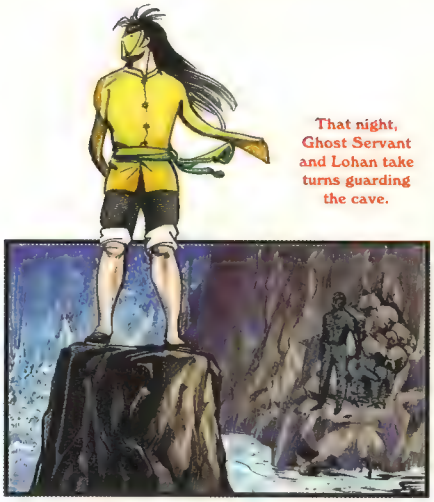

AS THE LAST DAY APPROACHES, EVERYONE STAYS ALERT IN CASE OF TROUBLE.

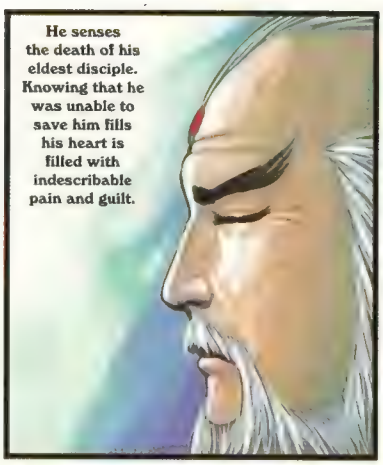
ONLY ONE MORE DAY IS LEFT, UNTIL THE HEALING IS COMPLETE.

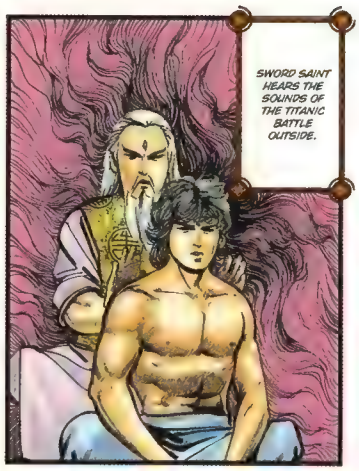
His heart rate suddenly increases.

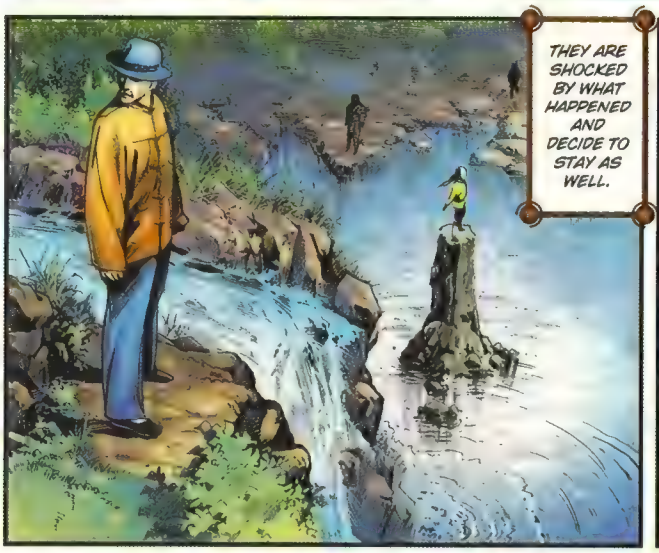
HUH?

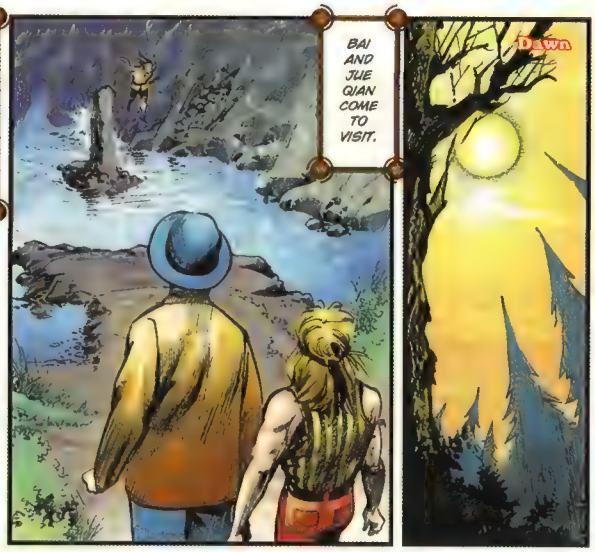
IT FEELS AS IF A STORM IS COMING ...

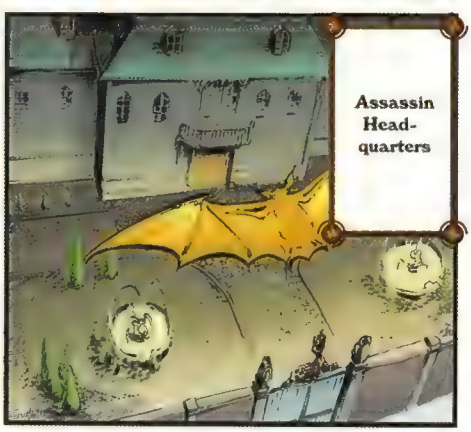

That night, Ghost Servant and Lohan take turns guarding the cave.

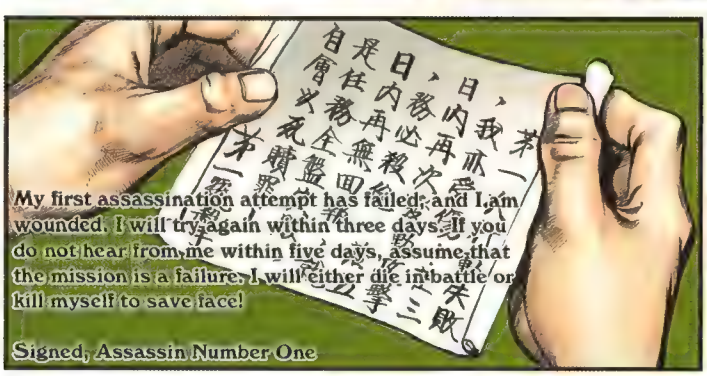

He senses the death of his eldest disciple. Knowing that he was unable to save him fills his heart is filled with indescribable pain and guilt.


SWORD SAINT HEARS THE SOUNDS OF THE TITANIC BATTLE OUTSIDE.


THEY ARE SHOCKED BY WHAT HAPPENED AND DECIDE TO STAY AS WELL.


BAI AND JUE QIAN COME TO VISIT.
Dawn

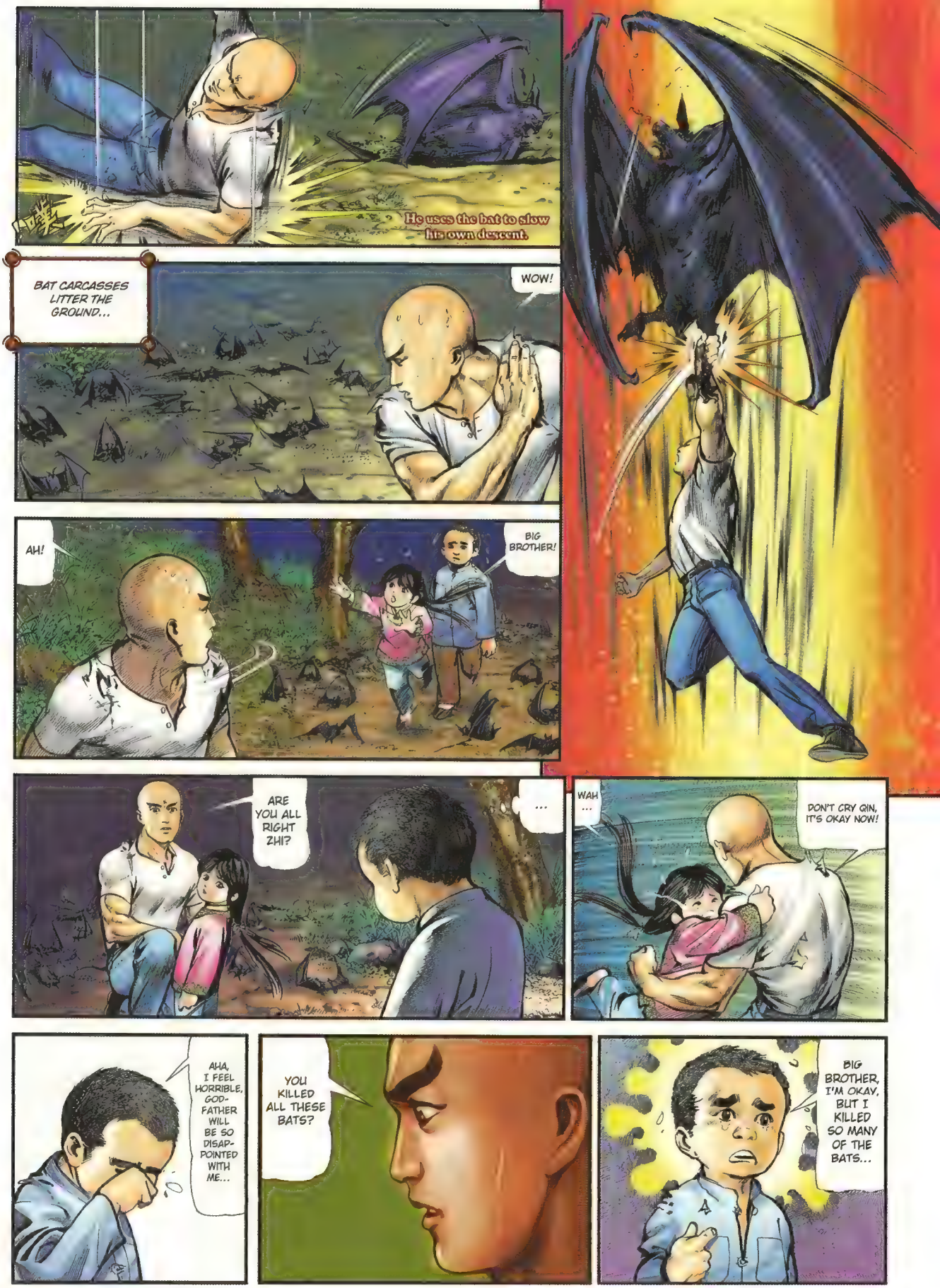

Assassin Head-quarters


My first assassination attempt has failed, and I am wounded. I will try again within three days. If you do not hear from me within five days, assume that the mission is a failure. I will either die in battle or kill myself to save face!
Signed, Assassin Number One

THE STRANGER IS IMMEDIATELY SPOTTED BY LOHAN AND THE CHILDREN!
...but he flees before Ghost Servant can strike.
OH!
BUT THE WATER IS RED WITH SWORD ELDER'S BLOOD.
The mystery man is badly hurt...
AH!
LOHAN RESPECTFULLY BURIES SWORD ELDER BY THE POND.
Alas, it is too late. A large hole in Sword Elder's chest marks his horrific demise.
LOHAN ACTS QUICKLY.

THE ENEMY IS FLUNG CLEAR OUT OF THE WATER ...
AH!
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE SACRIFICE! IN AN ATTEMPT TO KILL THIS MYSTERIOUS ENEMY, SWORD ELDER STRUCK HIMSELF IN THE CHEST, TRANSFERRING THE ENERGY STRAIGHT THROUGH HIS OWN BODY TO STRIKE THE CLOAKED FIGURE.

Back at the Moon Cave...


He uses the bat to slow his own descent.
BAT CARCASSES LITTER THE GROUND...
WOW!
AH!
BIG BROTHER!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ZHI?
...
WAH ...
DON'T CRY QIN, IT'S OKAY NOW!
AHA, I FEEL HORRIBLE, GOD-FATHER WILL BE SO DISAP-POINTED WITH ME...
YOU KILLED ALL THESE BATS?
BIG BROTHER, I'M OKAY, BUT I KILLED SO MANY OF THE BATS...

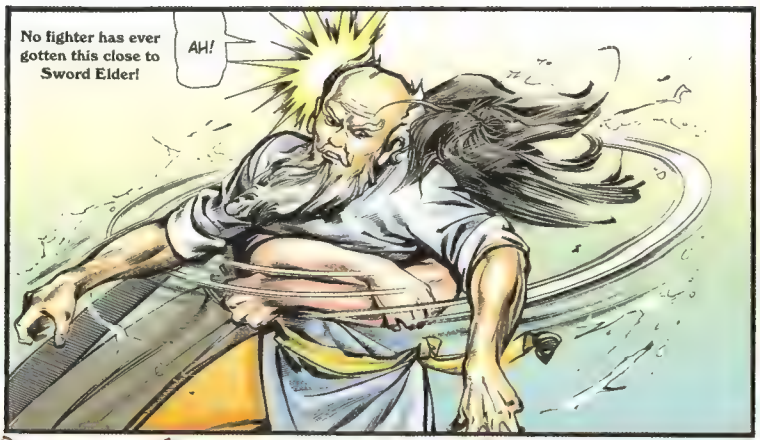
GET AWAY!
LITTLE ZHI HAS AMAZING CHI FOR HIS SIZE AND AGE.
THE BATS IMMEDIATELY TURN ON THE CHILDREN!
THE LARGEST OF THE FLOCK SEIZES LOHAN.
AH!

心魔
HEART DEMON
GET OUT OF HERE!!
The large bat rears up in pain...

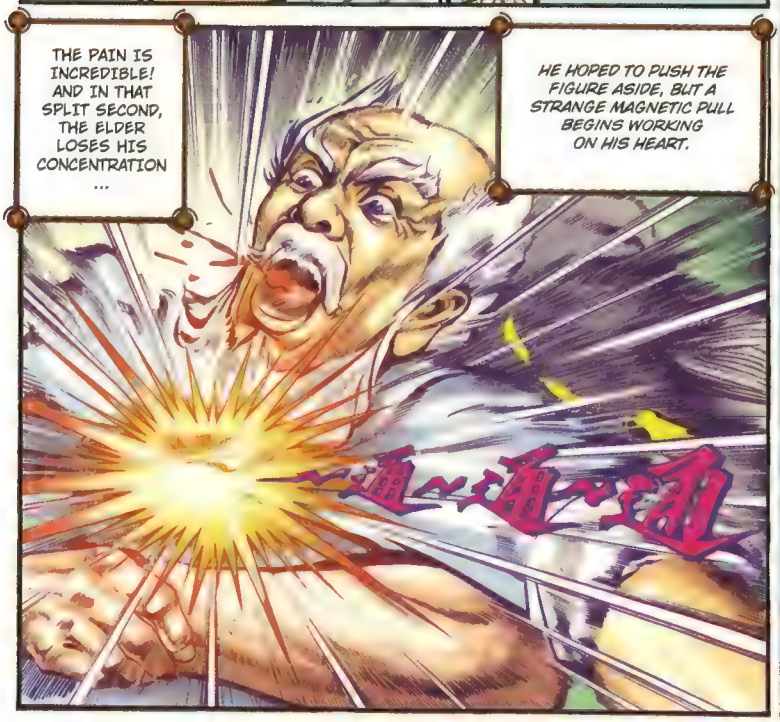
中華英雄
Chinese Hero
-Tales of the Blood Sword-

Chapter 10:

Heart Demon


No fighter has ever gotten this close to Sword Elder!
AH!

AH!
嗖!


THE PAIN IS INCREDIBLE! AND IN THAT SPLIT SECOND, THE ELDER LOSES HIS CONCENTRATION ...
HE HOPED TO PUSH THE FIGURE ASIDE, BUT A STRANGE MAGNETIC PULL BEGINS WORKING ON HIS HEART.
通~通~通

呀!
呀!

With his body stable, he takes the initiative.
HE SECRETLY USES HIS CHI TO SLOW THE BEATING OF HIS HEART.
HE HAS INJURED SOMEONE.
The two beams of chi are incredibly potent.
THAT WASN'T ENOUGH?!
Yet the pillar begins to shake...
I'LL SEND YOU TO HEAVEN!

!嘿!
Two stones instantly shoot out to meet those from Sword Elder.
!碰
!鏘
INTERCEPTING THOSE STONES IS NO SMALL TASK. SO HE FOLLOWS UP WITH A MORE "HANDS-ON" APPROACH.
!噗
HMM... NOT BAD!
WHO'S THERE? SHOW YOURSELF!
照普陽烈
Bright Sun Shine
Sword Elder's heart rate increases in response to such speed and skill.

SWORD SAINT AND HERO HAVE REACHED THE SECOND LEVEL OF HEALING. NOT EVEN ANIMALS MAY APPROACH.
WHICH SHATTERS THE ROCK INTO FOUR PIECES, EACH OF WHICH HITS A BAT!
He follows his throw with a sword chi strike...
HMPH!
SWORD ELDER'S HEART BEATS FASTER OF ITS OWN ACCORD.
THE SWORDSMAN'S KEEN SENSES DETECT A PRESENCE.
WHO'S THERE?

NEXT BEGINS DAY TWO.
啊
Within the cave, Sword Saint has completed the first day of healing.

HMPH!
WITH HIS HOLD BROKEN, HE HAS NO MORE WILL TO FIGHT.
THE ROAR STRIKES THE HEART OF THE CLOAKED FIGURE!
AH! SO THEY CAME FOR HERO!
BROTHER, THAT MAN ASKED ME WHERE HERO IS AND I HAD TO TELL HIM...
LOHAN BARELY ESCAPES WITH HIS LIFE.
AH...
LOHAN HAS NO WISH TO FIGHT WHILE ZHI AND QIN COULD BE AT RISK.
AH!
HE WASTES NO TIME AND INSTANTLY HEADS BACK TO MOON CAVE...
...WHEN SUDDENLY, A MASS OF BLACK LEATHER WINGS DECEND.
WOW! SO MANY BATS!
BUT WITHOUT WARN-ING...!
AH!

The more he resists, the faster his heart beats. It is now beating five times faster than normal! If his chi was not so powerful his heart would have already burst!
HE IMMEDIATELY CIRCULATES HIS CHI TO SUPPRESS THE WILD BEATING OF HIS HEART.
WHAT KIND OF TRICKERY IS THIS?
LOHAN CONTINUES TO RESIST, BUT THE ROBED FIGURE INCREASES THE STRAIN.
Die! Monster!!
The two sit unmoving, but Zhi cannot stand idly by.
AS SOON AS THE ROBED FIGURE IS ATTACKED, LOHAN RELEASES A VIOLENT WAIL...
HRAAA
The sudden attack disrupts his flow of chi.

!呀
HMPH! LOOKING FOR TROUBLE? DIE!
呀!
The cloaked figured begins chanting something strange as he spirals to the ground.
殺!無赦!
...
WHO ARE YOU?!
AH!
As Lohan approaches the cloaked figure he feels his heart palpitating beyond control.

OVER THERE!
HIS LIGHTFOOT IS GOOD.
OKAY!
Lohan tosses Zhi towards Qing and hastens his step...
GRAB YOUR SISTER!
!!!
The robed figure releases his burden!
Dragon Shadow Kick
Angered Dragon Ground Roll

SUDDENLY A SCREAM IS HEARD FROM THE OTHER ROOM!
QIN?
HOW DID THE MURDERER KILL HIDDEN SWORD?
Even Luhan, a veteran of hundreds of battles, is noticeably shaken!
HUH?
LET'S GO!
QIN'S BEEN KIDNAPPED!
ZHI, WHAT'S HAPPENED?
WORRIED, HE RETURNS TO INVESTIGATE.

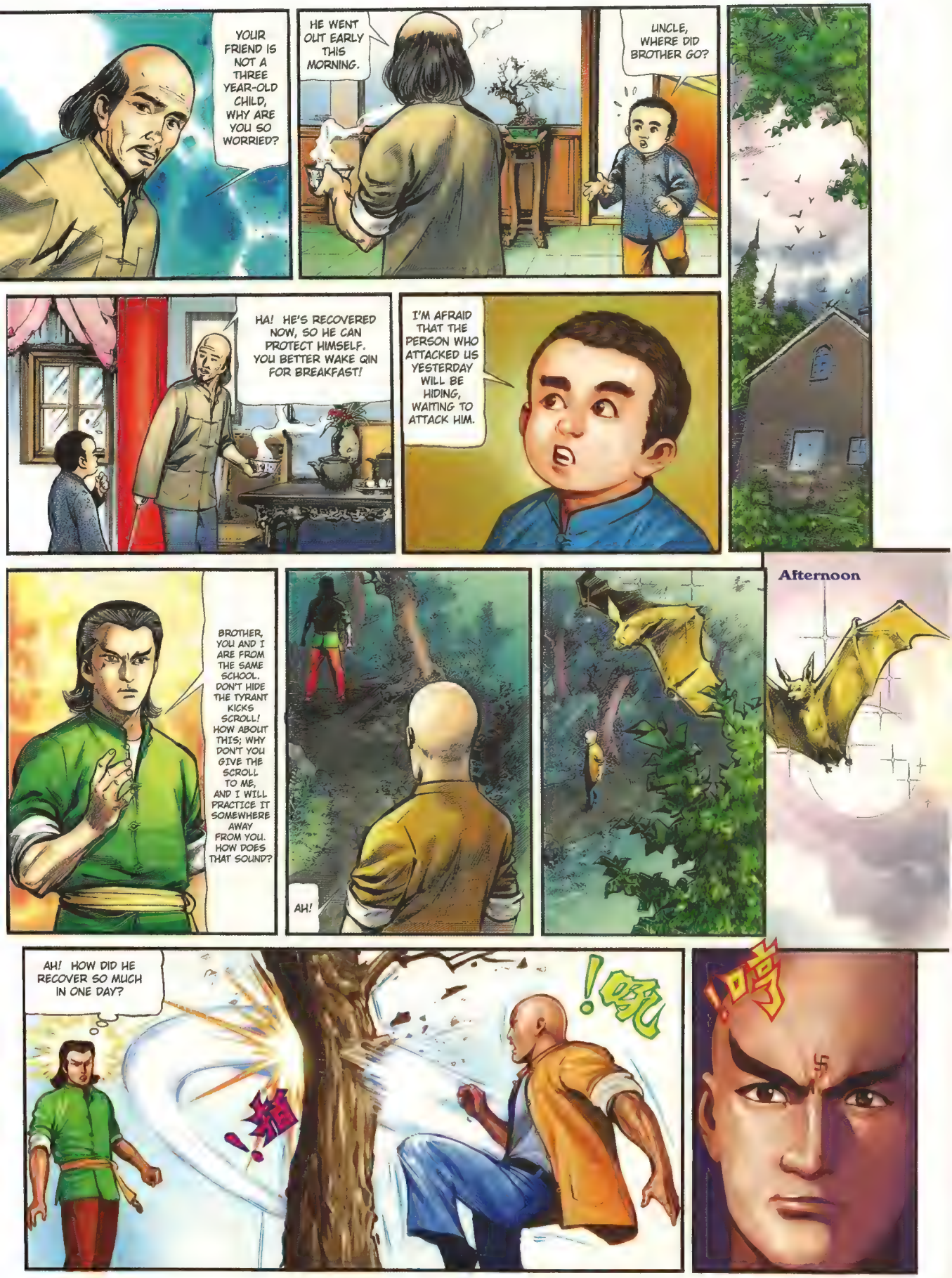
With a soul-rending scream, Hidden Sword's body bursts open!
LOHAN'S INCREDIBLE REFLEXES SAVE HIM. BUT HIDDEN SWORD IS STRIPPED OF HIS CONCENTRATION AND HOWLS IN AGONY.

!吓
Lohan knocks, but the silence worries him.
HIDDEN SWORD ...
STRANGE! WHY WASN'T HIDDEN SWORD AWAKENED?
HIS HEART BEATS FAST AND LOUD, LIKE A WAR DRUM!
Hidden Sword's face is twisted in pain, his pressure points bulge and his muscles twitch violently.
Lohan knows that Hidden Sword is using his chi to protect his heart.
Lohan cannot wait any longer, and transfers some of his chi to aid Hidden Sword.
His chi is not strong enough....
!吓
Just as his chi flows into Hidden Sword's body....

I have to stop it!
YOU TWO GO TO YOUR ROOMS.
BROTHER HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO CALM AND RATIONAL! WHAT COULD HAVE DRIVEN HIM SO MAD?!
Kylin grabs the sword, and maddeningly, begins stabbing his own heart.
Upon inspection, Lohan can find no signs of poisoning.

BROTHER, WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT'S BROTHER'S SIGNAL ...
Grasping Kylin's arm, Lohan feels his pulse racing out of control.
BROTHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

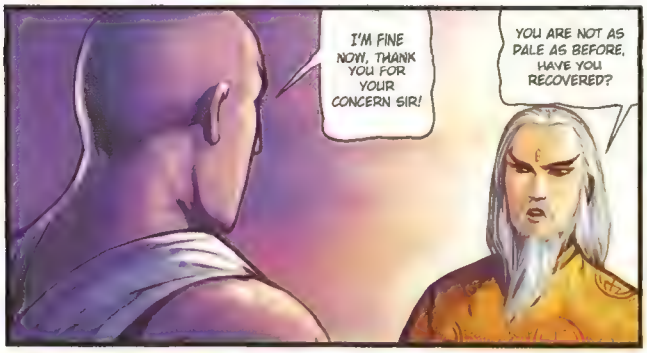
I HAVE TO WAIT FOR MY CHANCE.
HOW DID HE GET SO POWERFUL? IF HE REALLY GETS ANGRY, HOW WILL I FIGHT HIS TYRANT KICKS?!
YOU WILL NEVER GET THE SCROLL!
Why is Lohan so troubled?
呀…吐
The howl fills Lohan with a sense of horror, awakening him from his dreams...

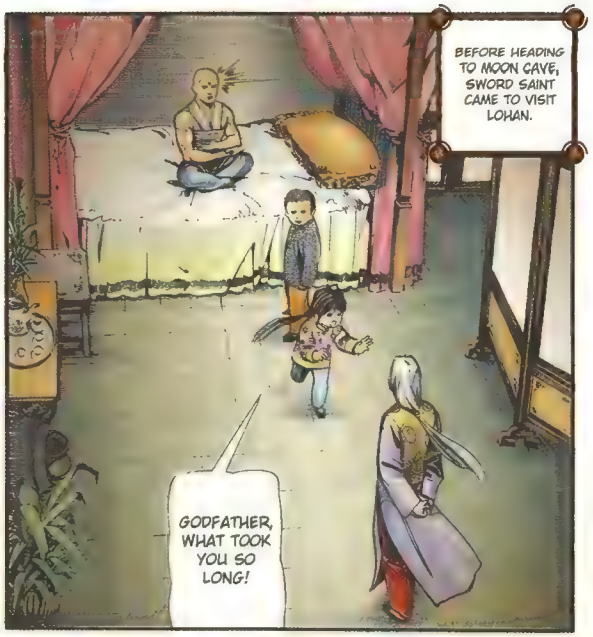

YOUR FRIEND IS NOT A THREE YEAR-OLD CHILD, WHY ARE YOU SO WORRIED?
HE WENT OUT EARLY THIS MORNING.
UNCLE, WHERE DID BROTHER GO?
HA! HE'S RECOVERED NOW, SO HE CAN PROTECT HIMSELF. YOU BETTER WAKE QIN FOR BREAKFAST!
I'M AFRAID THAT THE PERSON WHO ATTACKED US YESTERDAY WILL BE HIDING, WAITING TO ATTACK HIM.
Afternoon
BROTHER, YOU AND I ARE FROM THE SAME SCHOOL. DON'T HIDE THE TYRANT KICKS SCROLL! HOW ABOUT THIS; WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE SCROLL TO ME, AND I WILL PRACTICE IT SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM YOU. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
AH!
AH! HOW DID HE RECOVER SO MUCH IN ONE DAY?
!呲
!啊

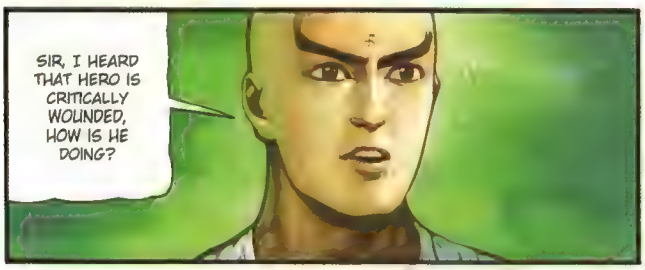
MASTER BAI, HOW IS YOUR MASTER PLANNING TO HEAL HERO?
MASTER'S ALREADY QUITE ELDERLY. HE WILL NEVER REGAIN THE AMOUNT OF INTERNAL CHI HE WILL EXPEND IN THIS ENDEAVOR...
MASTER IS PLANNING TO USE THE FIVE EXTREMITY MYSTIC SWORD TO RECONNECT ALL OF HERO'S JOINTS, BUT DOING SO WILL USE UP AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF HIS INTERNAL STRENGTH ...
IS THAT REALLY TRUE?
YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF IT, BUT MY MASTER'S SPECIAL STYLE, FIVE EXTREMITY MYSTIC SWORD, CAN BE USED TO COMBAT ENEMIES, BUT CAN ALSO BE USED TO HEAL INJURIES.
HE'S WILLING TO SACRIFICE SO MUCH TO SAVE HERO, HOW ADMIRABLE!
FIVE EXTREMITY MYSTIC SWORD IS SEPARATED INTO WIND, FIRE, THUNDER, YIN AND YANG ENERGIES. SWORD SAINT WILL TAKE FIVE DAYS TO USE EACH OF THESE ENERGIES TO STRAIGHTEN HERO'S MIXED CHAKRA LINES AND HEAL HIS BROKEN BONES AND JOINTS.

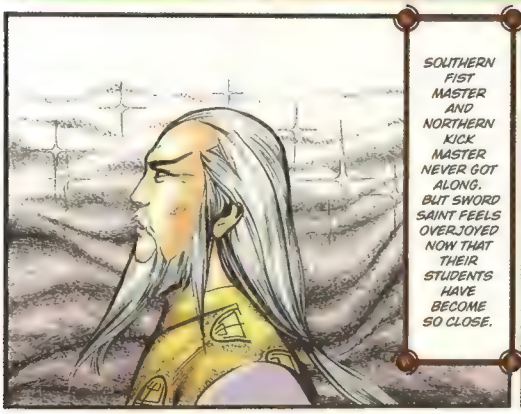
MASTER IS WORKING WITHIN, PLEASE GO BACK AND REST!
He continues to fish for rocks until he has tightly sealed the entrance.
Ghost Servant is determined to stay and watch over Hero.
JUE QIAN, PLEASE GO BACK TO THE FARM AND LET MY WIFE KNOW I'M FINE AND I'LL RETURN IN A FEW DAYS.
OKAY!
BROTHER, WE WILL RETURN TO CHINA TOWER. I WILL COME BACK IN TWO DAYS FOR A VISIT.
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HERO, YOU CAN GO AND WAIT IN THE HOUSE.
GHOST SERVANT, NO ONE CAN BE ALLOWED TO DISTURB THIS PLACE!
FWOOSH!
HMPH!

YES MASTER!
I WILL NEED FIVE DAYS TIME, SWORD ELDER. PROTECT THIS PLACE!
MASTER!
WITHIN THE CAVE, THERE IS A LARGE WORK SPACE AND LIBRARY. SWORD SAINT HAS COLLECTED THE SWORD SCROLLS OF VARIOUS CLANS AND STYLES. HIDDEN SWORD GUARDS THIS PLACE TO PREVENT LOOTING.
HIDDEN SWORD, SEAL THE CAVE WHEN YOU LEAVE. THEN GO BACK TO THE HOUSE AND TAKE CARE OF QIN AND ZHI!
...AND QUICKLY SURFACES WITH A GIANT STONE!
HIDDEN SWORD DIVES DEEP...


I'M FINE NOW, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN SIR!
YOU ARE NOT AS PALE AS BEFORE, HAVE YOU RECOVERED?

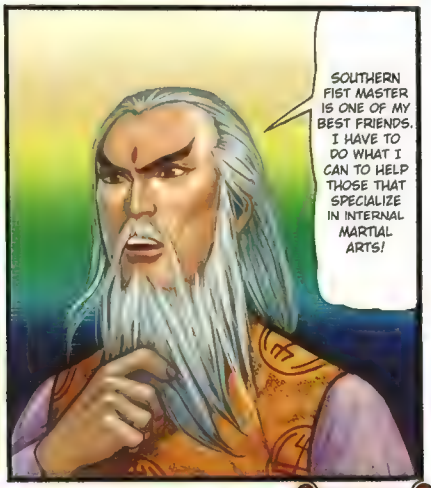

BEFORE HEADING TO MOON CAVE, SWORD SAINT CAME TO VISIT LOHAN.
GODFATHER, WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG!

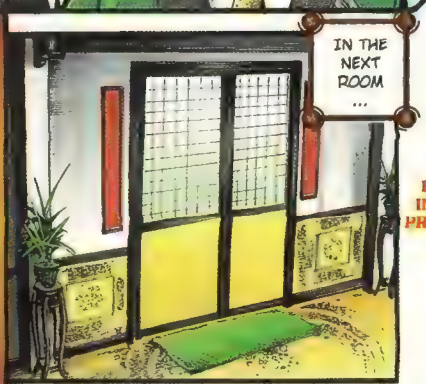

SIR, I HEARD THAT HERO IS CRITICALLY WOUNDED, HOW IS HE DOING?


SOUTHERN FIST MASTER AND NORTHERN KICK MASTER NEVER GOT ALONG. BUT SWORD SAINT FEELS OVERJOYED NOW THAT THEIR STUDENTS HAVE BECOME SO CLOSE.

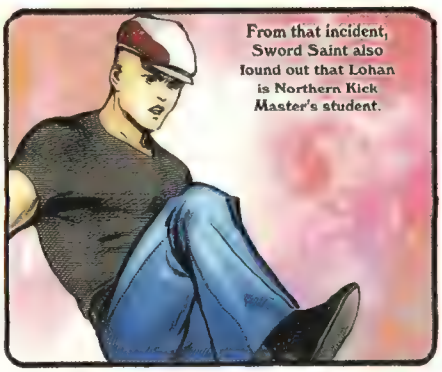
HE IS DOING WELL, PLEASE RELAX HERE!

MOON CAVE
SWORD SAINT'S PRACTICE GROUNDS





BACK IN THE PRESENT ...



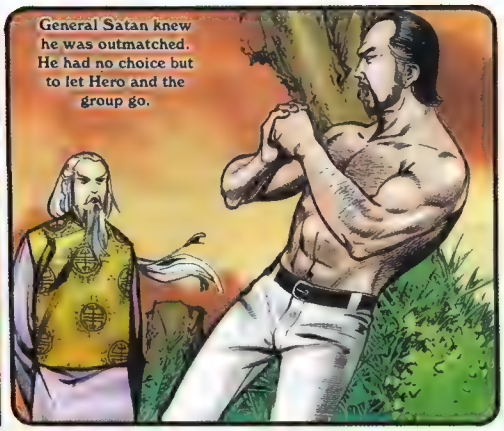
HEHE, HE'S NOT HERE YET!
WHERE'S MASTER?
Hidden Sword is somewhat frustrated and unsatisfied that Kylin fled.
HE'S WOUNDED DEEPLY. EVEN IF HE MANAGES TO LIVE, HE MIGHT BE CRIPPLED FOR LIFE!
GOD-FATHER'S BACK!
YES MASTER!
GIVE HIM TWO STEADY HEART PILLS AND THEN TRY MASSAGING HIS PRESSURE POINTS WITH YOUR FIVE EXTREMITY MYSTIC SWORD.
!
GU!
Sword Elder obediently complies.

He was drawn here by all the commotion.

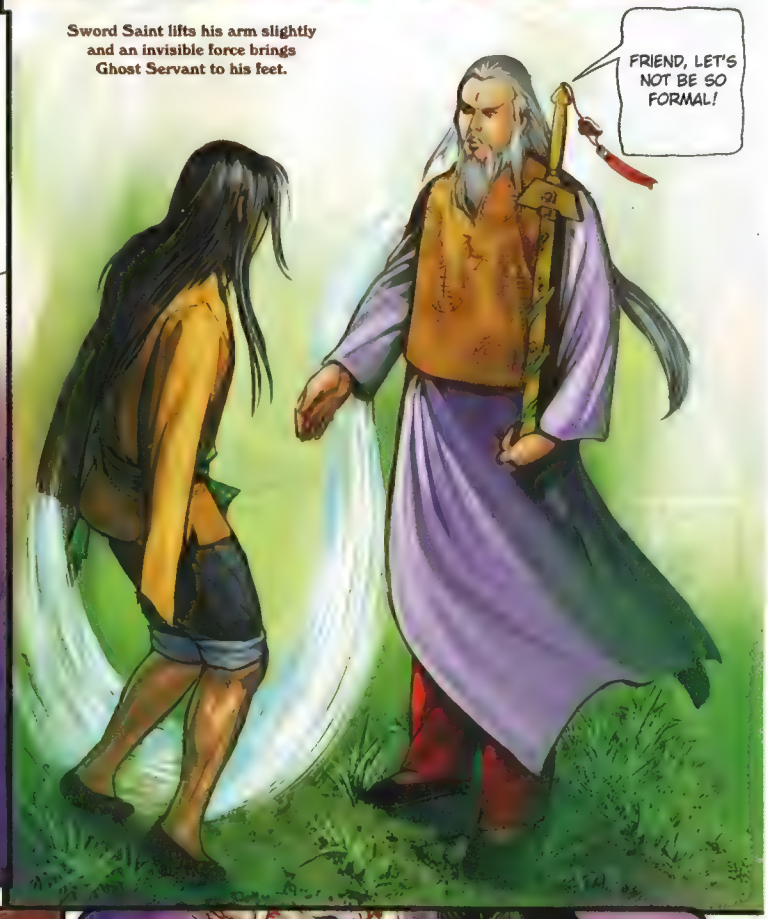
This man is Sword Saint's servant - *Hidden Sword*

SUDDENLY HE FEELS A STRONG FORCE BEHIND HIM.
!呀
The seemingly weak gesture, is in reality, filled with incredible chi.
AH!
!哎
WHOA!
DIE!
YOU'RE FINISHED HERE! LEAVE NOW!
YOU'RE QUITE GOOD. NO SHADOW SCHOOL?
嗖!

噗


General Satan knew he was outmatched. He had no choice but to let Hero and the group go.

SIR, YOU HAVE TO SAVE HERO!


Sword Saint lifts his arm slightly and an invisible force brings Ghost Servant to his feet.
FRIEND, LET'S NOT BE SO FORMAL!

噗!

MASTER, YOUR SHIRT IS RIPPED, ARE YOU HURT?
I AM WELL. AND YOU?
ELDER, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME! HOW ARE YOU?
Sword Saint faked his own death to escape the prying eyes of the world, it has been years since the Gate Masters have seen him.
Sword Saint is wearing thin protective armor beneath his shirt.
The dagger flew straight for Sword Saint's heart, but...!
Sword Saint took five hits straight on from General Satan, with the flying dagger hitting him square in the chest.
DRAW!
I WON'T RETURN WITH YOU, SO YOU CAN SAVE FACE. REMEMBER, THOUGH, THAT YOU HAVE MADE ME A PROMISE! DO NOT BREAK IT!
AH!
SWORD SAINT'S INCREDIBLE SKILLS STUNNED GENERAL SATAN.

SIR, WHY ARE WE LETTING THEM GO?
!碰
SHUT UP!
!哇
MASTER!
SOON THEY REACH THE BOTTOM AND...
AH!
Ghost Servant is only worried about Hero's safety and completely ignores Jue Qian.
THEIR LEADER AND ONE OTHER LEFT FOR A WHILE. I THINK THAT PERSON MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE GOT AWAY SO EASILY.

HEART
THUMPING
MURDER

ALL OF YOU LEAVE!

HA HA HA
Sword Elder realizes that General Satan must have heeded Sword Saint's warning and made this decision!

NOW! BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND!

中華英雄
Chinese Hero

-Tales of the Blood Sword-

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Heart Thumping Murder

中華英雄
Chinese Hero

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